

DOC. No. XI.

REPORT

OF

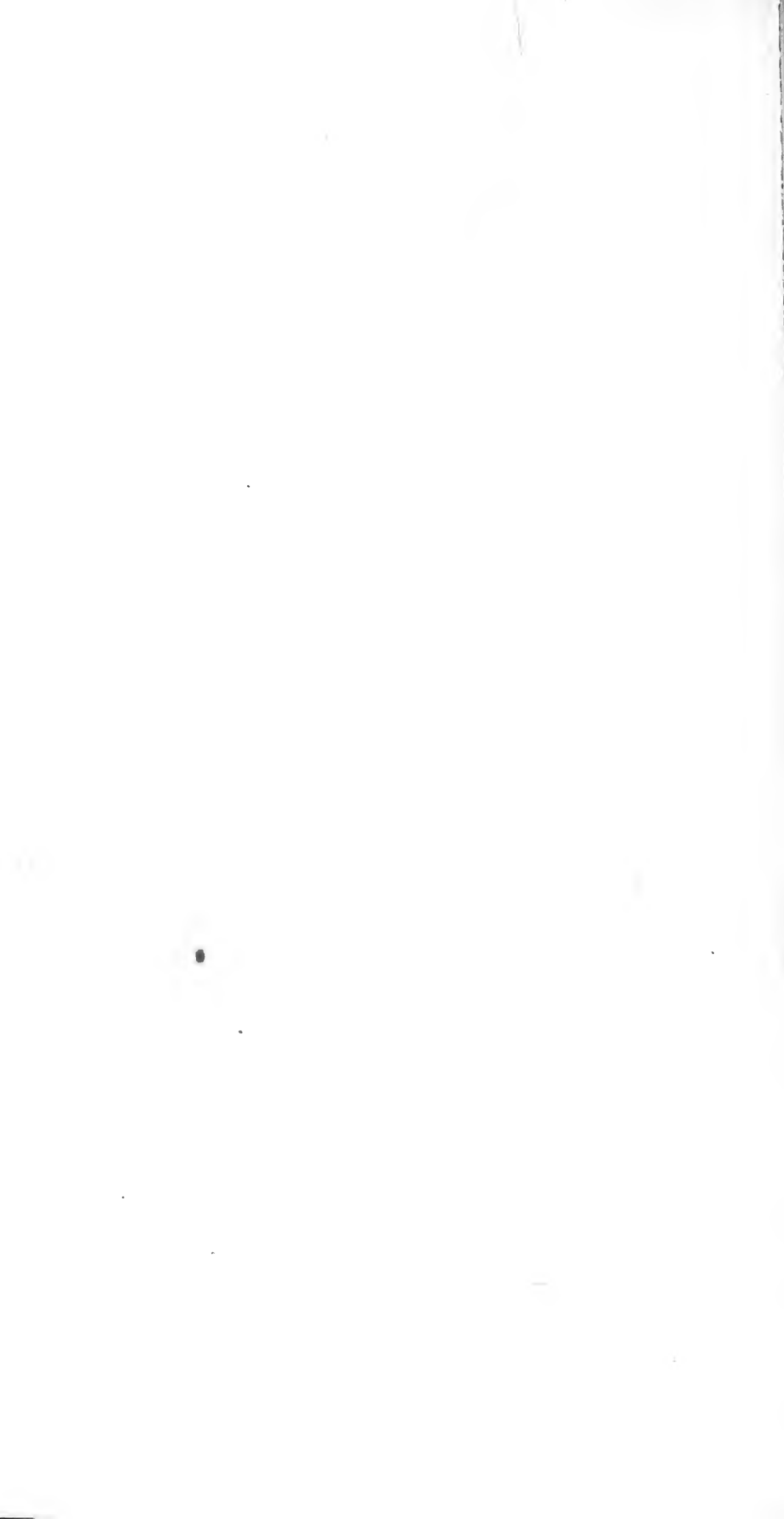
THE BOARD OF VISITORS

OF THE

VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE.

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1853-4.



# REPORT.

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VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE,

JULY 6, 1853.

*His Excellency* JOSEPH JOHNSON.

SIR,

The board of visitors of the Virginia military institute, assembled in annual session, respectfully submit the following

## REPORT:

The board did not inspect the arms in the arsenal. They received a thorough inspection in 1848, and at the last annual meeting the board made a partial inspection, and found the arms in the highest state of preservation, so that this board deemed it unnecessary to have the boxes again opened.

The examinations of the several classes were made under the superintendence of the board, and resulted in satisfying them, in the most satisfactory manner, that the professors are eminently qualified to fill their several positions, and that a corps of professors could not well be found who could discharge their several delicate and important trusts with more fidelity and success.

Your excellency will find with this report the merit roll of the cadets, as ascertained at this examination, and the board especially notices, as the most distinguished of the several classes, the following cadets:

### *First Class.*

1. James T. Murfee of Southampton.
2. William Silvester of Norfolk city.

### *Second Class.*

1. R. C. Taylor of Norfolk city.
2. J. H. Lane of Matthews.

### *Third Class.*

1. W. T. Patton of Richmond.
2. L. B. Williams, jr. of Orange.

### *Fourth Class.*

1. F. H. Jeffress of Charlotte.
2. C. M. Barton of Frederick.

The duty of appointing pay and state cadets was discharged. The board appointed state cadets according to the arrangement of the senatorial districts under the old constitution. The same difficulty in making these appointments now exists as was presented to your excellency in the last annual report. - But if the board had been satisfied that they were authorized to appoint according to the new senatorial arrangement, the means of the institute would not justify the board in appointing so large a number. The board would most earnestly request your excellency to recommend to the legislature the propriety of making an annual appropriation for the support of eighteen additional state cadets which would give one to each senatorial district under the new arrangement. Every one is now convinced of the importance of sending out native and qualified teachers into all parts of the state, and the institute is doing that more effectually than any other institution in the state. An annuity of \$5,000 is deemed sufficient for this purpose, as well as for the salary of an adjunct professor under the superintendent. The services of such an officer have now become indispensable to the proper management of the institute. The duties of the superintendent have become so complex and onerous, that it is impracticable for one man to perform them, for any length of time, as now required. The interest of the state and the institute, and of those whom the state has undertaken to educate, requires that provision should be made for the employment of this additional professor.

There is another matter of importance that the board would bring to the notice of your excellency, and through you to the legislature. The state cadets are required to teach two years in the state after leaving the institute. Very much to the credit of this class of cadets, this duty is very rarely neglected. But there are a few who are so destitute of honor and moral principle as to refuse to discharge this sacred duty, after receiving the otherwise gratuitous bounty of the state, and pledging themselves in the most solemn manner to the fulfillment of the obligation. The board would, therefore, recommend that an act be passed authorizing the recovery by suit of the expenses incurred in the education of all state cadets who refuse or fail to teach as required by law, and that no length of time be permitted to bar such recovery.

The appropriation made by the legislature for the erection of new buildings and improvement of the parade ground, has been exhausted. Owing to the high price to which everything has advanced, the estimate made has proved inadequate. The high price to which building material and mechanical labor have advanced, has materially affected the cost of the improvements. A new mess hall is now being constructed, for which no provision has been made by the legislature. This building has become necessary on account of the old one being too small, and so much dilapidated as to be unsafe. The construction of the mess hall was undertaken with the expectation that the cost of it could be defrayed out of the mess fund. But the great advance in the price of labor and provisions, without a consequent advance in the price of board, will probably render the mess fund insufficient to defray the cost of the building. The professors' houses are nearly completed, and the wings of the new barracks will soon be covered in. In order to get the wings covered in, so that they would be secured from injury by exposure to the weather, the superintendent has had to exceed the amount of the appropriation by something over \$3,000. In the

union of the board the superintendent acted wisely in persevering in the work until the buildings were so far completed as to be secure from injury.

It is now for the legislature to determine whether they will complete a work of much importance, on which they have already spent a considerable amount of money. The sum of \$20,000 is deemed amply sufficient to complete all of these improvements, and then the eyes of the whole state can be turned with pride to one of the most beautiful and useful structures in the state. We express the hope that the legislature will take early action on this important matter.

Heretofore and now the only music belonging to the institute is the fife and drum. Every one having any knowledge of military affairs, whether in the school or in the camp, knows the importance of having a good band of music. It has as much influence upon the martial training of youth as it has upon the veteran soldier upon the field of battle. The board therefore recommend that the legislature make provision for the support of at least six musicians, to be enlisted for the institute.

Reference is made to the reports of the committees on the different departments for information as to the condition of each, and to the report of the superintendent for information as to the whole. But more particular reference is made to the report of the committee on the quartermaster's department, because alleged abuses in this department were brought to the notice of the legislature during the last winter.

The board feel great gratification in referring to the results flowing from this institution. From it our state is receiving a supply of highly competent teachers, society an addition of educated and high-toned gentlemen, and our public improvements an impetus by receiving into their service a corps of engineers; and these results are but an earnest of what the institute will yet do, under the liberal patronage of our venerable old commonwealth.

We have the honor to be

Your obedient servants,

FRANCIS M. BOYKIN, *Pres't.*  
W. H. RICHARDSON,  
DOUGLAS B. LAYNE,  
S. V. FULKERSON,  
SAM'L L. HAYS,  
WM. SEYMOUR,  
JAS. BARBOUR.



## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FINANCE.

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The committee, to whom was referred the report of the treasurer of the Virginia military institute, having carefully examined the same, beg leave to report :  
That each item of account contained in said report is sustained by a corresponding voucher, the whole methodically arranged under the several heads of receipts and expenditures, amounting in the aggregate to \$ 85,573 07, viz :

Receipts for Virginia military institute proper, embraces :					
Annual state appropriation,	-	-	-	-	9,210 00
Admission fees of pay cadets,	-	-	-	-	5,000 00
For pay of ordnance sergeant,	-	-	-	-	360 00
Commission on deposits of pay cadets,	-	-	-	-	894 10
Diplomas,	-	-	-	-	130 00
From sundry contingent sources,	-	-	-	-	236 91
					15,831 01
From quartermaster's department,	-	-	-	-	22,393 75
" building fund,	-	-	-	-	31,643 17
" subsistence department,	-	-	-	-	15,705 14
					85,573 07

The disbursements for the same period are as follows :

Amount paid for V. M. I.	-	-	-	-	16,158 05
" " quartermaster's department,	-	-	-	-	21,479 75
" " building barracks and professors' houses,	-	-	-	-	28,601 04
" " subsistence department,	-	-	-	-	10,179 62
					76,418 46
Balance,					\$ 9,154 61

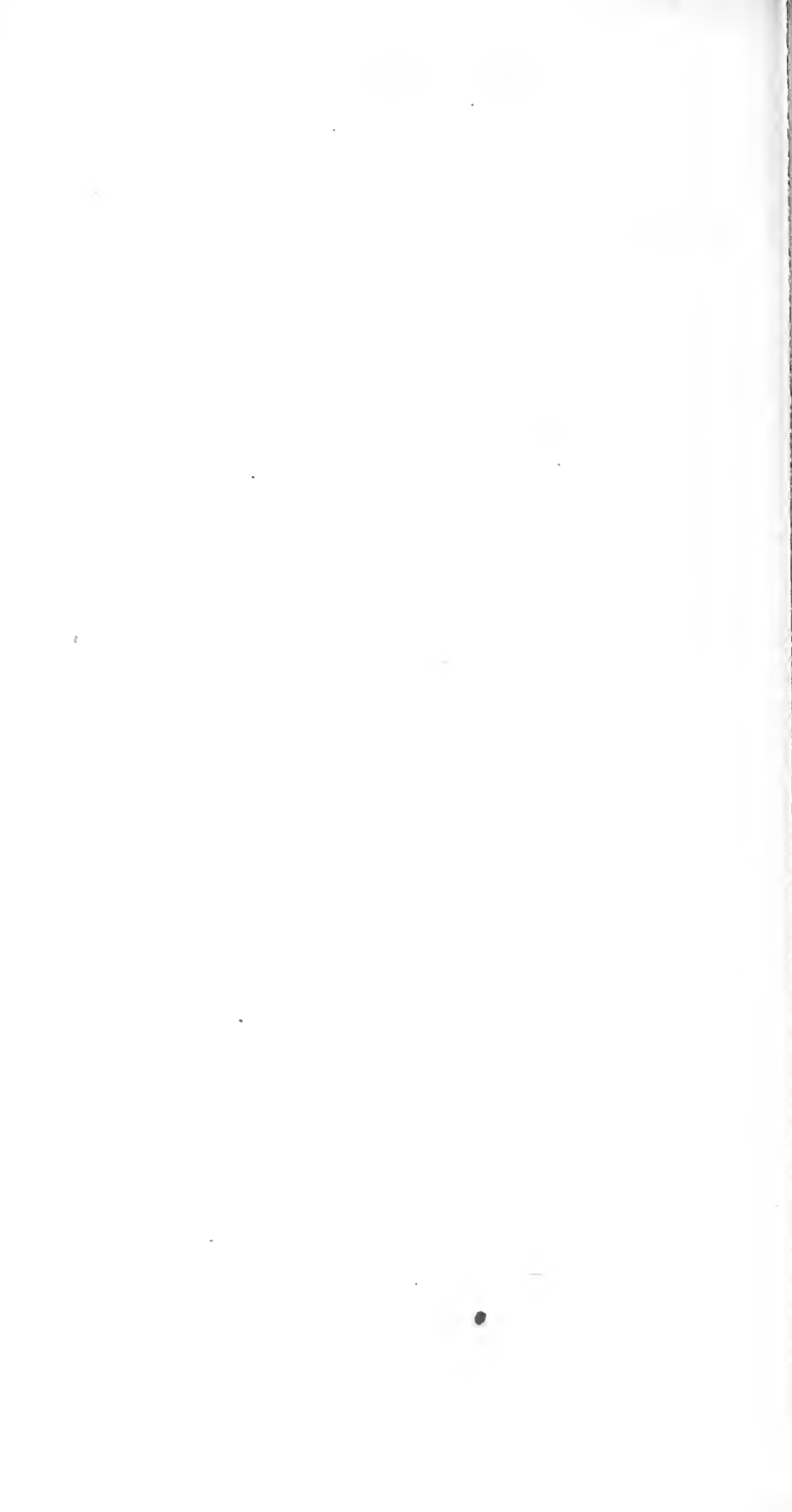
The above exhibit will show that the expenditures for the institute proper has exceeded the receipts, - - - - - \$327 04  
That there is a balance in favor of the quartermaster's department, of 914 00  
In favor of the building account, of - - - - - 3,042 13  
And in favor of the subsistence department, of - - - - - 5,525 52

All of which is respectfully submitted.

S. L. HAYS,  
JAS. BARBOUR,  
DOUGLAS B. LAYNE,  
WM. H. RICHARDSON,  
WM. SEYMOUR,  
S. V. FULKERSON.

GEN. F. M. BOYKIN,

*President B. V. V. M. I.*





## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION.

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The committee on instruction report that they have examined the subject to which was referred, and find nothing which they think necessary to be brought to the special attention of the board. There are several changes suggested by the professors in their reports, which the committee believe can be more appropriately proposed of by the academic board, and the committee advise that the reports of the professors be referred to the academic board for such action in the premises to them may seem most expedient. These suggestions relate to changes in the details of the system of instruction as now arranged.

The system of instruction appears to have been conducted in a very satisfactory manner. The proficiency of the cadets, as exhibited in the examinations conducted under the personal observation of the board, is the best evidence of its efficiency.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. BARBOUR,  
WM. SEYMOUR,  
SAM'L L. HAYS,  
D. B. LAYNE,  
W. H. RICHARDSON,  
S. V. FULKERSON,  
*Committee.*

GEN. FRANCIS M. BOYKIN,  
*B. V. V. M. I.*

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## REPORT ON QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT.

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The undersigned, committee on the quartermaster's department, submit the following report:

The committee have examined, with much attention, the operations of this department. The goods appear to have been judiciously selected and purchased at advantageous prices. The committee are satisfied that the articles needed by the cadets are furnished through this department at prices considerably lower than they could be otherwise obtained. They are sold to the cadets at an average advance of 20 per cent. on the invoice price; some articles of more general necessity are furnished at an advance less than this, while the general average is maintained by a larger price on other articles. The prices of none of these articles, however, exceed, nor perhaps equal those obtained in the retail stores for articles of similar quality. The committee highly approve this discrimination, as it is most favorable to cadets of limited means, whose supplies are restricted to articles of necessity.

By reference to statement (1,) it will be seen that the amount paid by the treasurer, on account of the quartermaster's department during the year, is \$21,621 93, which is offset by credits from sales of merchandise to officers and cadets during the same period, amounting, together with balance on last year's settlement (\$ 423 67,) to \$22,535 93; which leaves a balance to the credit of the quartermaster's department, of \$914.

By reference to statement (2,) it will be perceived that the liabilities of the department amount to the sum of \$9,307 32, and that there remains in the hands of the quartermaster available property of the net value of \$10,337 71—all of which will be in requisition during the next year. This leaves a balance in favor of the department, of 1,030 39, which, with the balance against the treasurer of \$914, leaves a total balance of \$1,944 39. In this balance, however, is included the amount due by ex-cadets, as exhibited in statement (4.) This amounts to the sum of \$1,685 78, of which \$600 are estimated to be bad debts. If those debts should prove bad, this amount will have to be refunded to the treasurer, and of course must be deducted from the general balance, as stated above. This would leave a balance of \$1,344 39, including property on hand. This is the result of the operations of the department for ten years, and shows that it has not been the purpose of its management to make a profit upon the sales. It has simply accomplished the object of its establishment, to provide the supplies of the cadets at the lowest prices practicable.

Statement (3) exhibits the operations of the tailoring department. The payments to the tailor amount during the year to \$1,755, and the receipts for articles of clothing amount to \$1,871 56. The committee are satisfied that this department has been well managed, and much credit is due to the quartermaster for the

efficiency and fidelity with which he has discharged the duties devolving [u]n  
him. His compensation is inadequate, being less than that paid elsewhere  
similar services. The committee have no hesitation in recommending the ad-  
tion of the superintendent's suggestion, that an addition of \$200 be made to  
quartermaster's salary.

Respectfully submitted.

D. B. LAYNE,  
SAM'L L. HAYS,  
JAS. BARBOUR,  
WM. SEYMOUR,  
S. V. FULKERSON,  
WM. H. RICHARDSON

GEN. FRANCIS M. BOYKIN,  
*President B. V. V. M. I.*

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON SUBSISTENCE.

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The committee on subsistence submit the following report :

They found the department organized in its plan and executed in its details in such a manner as to secure efficiency and economy in its administration. The departments are in good order, and the provisions furnished to the cadets, the committee is warranted in stating, are excellent in quality and abundant in quantity. The resolution adopted by the last board, directing the erection of a new mess hall, is in progress of execution, by the accumulation of materials purchased with the profit fund of this department. But as this fund has decreased, and is probably destined still farther to be diminished in consequence of the enhancement of the price of provisions and the value of labor, the completion of the work must necessarily be delayed to a late period, if that resource is alone relied upon. It is therefore recommended that an appropriation be asked for from the legislature, of a sum of money adequate to the immediate completion of the mess hall, and thus at once relieve the cadets from the inconvenience and danger of the present dilapidated structure.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

WM. SEYMOUR,  
SAM'L L. HAYS,  
JAMES BARBOUR,  
D. B. LAYNE,  
WM. H. RICHARDSON,  
S. V. FULKERSON.

*Committee.*

GEN. F. M. BOYKIN,  
*President B. V. V. M. I.*



## REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE.

It seems to this committee that the external discipline of the corps of cadets is decidedly improved, and is probably better than at any former period. The discipline is fully as good as could reasonably be expected while extensive building operations are in progress. The drill, as exhibited in the field exercises before the board, is quite as good as heretofore, although much inconvenience is occasioned by the coming in of new cadets at late and irregular periods. In connection with this subject, the committee recommends that new cadets be required to report for duty as speedily as possible after receiving their appointments, so that they may have the full benefit of a preparatory course in the school of tactics during the encampment, and be better prepared for military duty before going to quarters.

It affords the committee much satisfaction to report, as we think we may with confidence, that the ungentlemanly and discreditable practices upon new cadets, which the board of visitors has for some time desired effectually to repress, may now be considered as existing no longer. The good sense and manly feeling of the corps of cadets have raised up in aid of the authorities, in fact of the character of the institute, the most effectual remedy for this crying evil, which we trust will believe will be heard of no more.

Very great inconvenience has frequently existed, and is likely very soon to occur again, from the want of suitable music. Although the superintendent is authorized by law to enlist musicians, no provision has been made for their pay and subsistence, the annual appropriations from the treasury being barely sufficient to keep the institution itself in progress. The superintendent has consequently been compelled to rely upon hiring musicians for longer or shorter terms, according as he could obtain the services of this capricious and uncertain class of people, who will often engage to-day for twelve months' service, and to-morrow violate the engagement and go off. At a great military school like this, music is indispensable, and is required almost every hour of the day, and the best remedy for the inconvenience which has always existed here, the committee thinks, would be found in a small but efficient band of good musicians. It is therefore recommended that a provision be asked of the legislature for a band of six enlisted men, to be employed as musicians at this post. The expenses it is believed would be inconsiderable, and very far outweighed by the advantages and indispensable services which would thereby be secured.

WM. H. RICHARDSON,  
S. L. HAYS,  
D. B. LAYNE,  
JAS. BARBOUR,  
WM. SFYMOUR,  
S. V. FULKERSON.

GEN. FRANCIS M. BOYKIN,  
*President B. V. V. M. I.*





## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

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HEAD QUARTERS,

VA. MILITARY INSTITUTE,

June 20, 1853.

SIR,

I have the honor to present herewith my annual report of the condition of this institution.

### FINANCES.

The financial operations of the institute are embraced under four distinct heads. 1. *Virginia Military Institute*. 2. *The Quartermaster's Department*. 3. *The Subsistence Department*. 4. *The Building Fund*. Full exhibits of each of these departments accompany this report, and are marked A, B, C and D.

1. *The Virginia Military Institute* account embraces in its receipts the annual appropriation, the pay of the ordnance sergeant, the tuition fees of the pay cadets, the fees for diplomas, and commissions for the safe keeping and disbursement of the cadets' deposits.

These receipts, upon the basis of 90 pay and 32 state cadets, amount in the aggregate to the annual sum of (A) - - - 14,845 00

This account is chargeable with the pay of the professors, surgeon, assayer, ordnance sergeant, and musicians; with the support of the pay cadets, and with contingent expenses for servants, &c., amounting in the aggregate, and upon the basis of 32 state cadets, to the annual sum of (A) - - - 13,900 00

Annual surplus, - - - 945 00  
This surplus was charged during a part of the past year with the support of 10 additional state cadets, amounting to - 1,272 04

leaving a balance against the Va. military institute account, of \$ 327 04

As the receipts for tuition, diplomas and commissions are contingent, the board will see the propriety of not extending the liabilities of the Virginia military institute account, the annual surplus of \$945 being small enough to meet the contingencies of this account. The number of state cadets cannot, therefore,

be increased beyond the number prescribed by law, viz: 32. I would, however, renew my former recommendation, that provision be made for the reception of 18 additional state cadets, so that the number shall correspond with the presenatorial districts of the state. The cost for their support would amount about \$3,000.

2. *The Quartermaster's Department* supplies the clothing, fuel, lights, board, stationery, beds and washing of the cadets.

The receipts embrace credits for the amount of goods sold at an advance of 20 per cent. upon the invoice price of such goods, and the actual cost price of the fuel, lights and washing furnished. The total amount of these receipts for the past fiscal year was (B)

	-	-	-	22,112
This department is also credited with the stock of goods on hand,				
as per inventory,	-	-	-	10,337
Balance on treasurer's account, June 15, 1852,	-	-	-	423

Total credits,	-	-	-	32,873
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The debits against this department embrace the amounts paid out for goods, fuel, lights, &c., and for house rent and fuel of professors, making an aggregate for the past year of (B)

Existing liabilities, (B,)	-	-	9,307	32
Total debits,	-	-	-	30,929

Balance to the credit of this department,				<u>\$1,944</u>
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Of this balance, the sum of \$1,685 78 is due from cadets who have left the institute with balances against them—\$600 of which may be considered as debts.

The report of the quartermaster, Mr. R. H. Catlett, with the books of the department kept by him, will explain every transaction of the past year. The funds by which the heavy operations of this department are conducted, are derived exclusively from the deposits of the cadets. A minute examination of the accounts in all its details, is earnestly requested, as an act of justice to the officers who are charged with the heavy expenditures belonging to it, and to satisfy the board that due care is taken to guard the interests of the cadets in the quality and price of the goods furnished to them. The heating, lighting and washing arrangements, which are embraced in the operations of this department, will claim the special consideration of the board; and the superintendent feels assured that the complaints existing in part last year, in the imperfect washing, have been entirely removed by the new system then adopted. It has been impossible during the past year, to test fully the comparative expense between the present and the former systems of heating, lighting and washing, owing to the fact that the arrangements for them are only recently perfected. A careful account will be kept for the coming year, and the result reported. Our experience fully confirms our expectation as to the comfort, safety and cleanliness of the system now in use.

The examination of this department will, I am sure, satisfy the board that the salary of the quartermaster is not in proportion to the duties or responsibilities of his office. It is now only \$500, and it is respectfully recommended that it be increased \$200.

*The Subsistence Department* conducts the mess arrangements of the cadets. The credits embrace the allowance for the board of the cadets, laborers and servants, for the forage of the teams, and for sales to officers, amounting in the aggregate for the past year to (C)

	-	-	-	14,600 06
Provisions on hand,	-	-	-	843 87
Credits for hire of servants, and damages refunded,	-	-	-	663 29
Balance on hand June 15, 1852,	-	-	-	93 86
Total credits,	-	-	-	16,201 08

This department is chargeable with the amount paid for provisions, furniture, pay of steward, and hire of servants, &c., amounting in the aggregate for the past year to (C)

	-	13,993 29
Repairs, additions, &c.	-	769 79
Total debits,	-	14,763 08

Balance to the credit of the subsistence department, \$1,438 00

This balance is independent of the property belonging to the subsistence department, as stated by the steward, embracing

Silver in current use,	-	-	-	640 00
Two men servants, (cost,)	-	-	-	1,049 00
Property in store, (new,)	-	-	-	512 43
“ “ (old,)	-	-	-	41 61
Articles in use, at estimated value,	-	-	-	1,469 84
Hospital furniture in use,	-	-	-	288 35
Total unencumbered property,	-	-	-	<u>\$4,001 23</u>

At the last meeting of the board, the superintendent received instructions to proceed at once to the erection of a new mess-house, upon the plan and estimates laid before them. This building, which will contain accommodations for the board of visitors, has been commenced, and will cost about \$10,000. The means to meet this expense were based upon the annual surplus in the receipts of the subsistence department over current expenses. The tabular comparative statements of the steward, which have been carefully prepared, will show that the estimated surplus will, in all probability, be considerably diminished by the great advance in the price of provisions and labor; and thus our ability to meet our engagements will be materially affected. The board may remedy this, by increasing the rate of boarding, as has been done in most of the boarding establishments of the country. But it is very desirable to avoid this advance, if possible, especially as this charge upon the department, though an urgent one, is only temporary. I have thought that the accommodations for the board of visitors, not being properly chargeable to the subsistence department, might be provided for by a special appropriation from the state. The necessity for their accommodation has heretofore been so apparent, that the board have subjected themselves to the inconvenience and discomfort of occupying the temporary arrangements provided for them at the institute, rather than quarter themselves in the town. An appropriation of \$5,000 would provide suitable accommodations for them in the new mess-house, and thus so reduce the cost as to place the balance

within the means of the subsistence department *without increasing the charge boarding*. An examination of the building now used for a mess-house satisfy the board that it is unsafe, and could not be occupied another year without great risk.

4. <i>The Building Fund</i> is credited with the sums appropriated for the erect			
of the cadets' barracks, professors' houses, and heating and lighting arrangements, amounting to	-	-	76,000
The disbursements on this account have amounted to	-	-	72,957
<hr/>			
Balance to the credit of building fund in treasurer's report, June 1853,	-	-	3,042
Property on hand at present value, (D,)	-	-	1,800
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Total credits of the building fund,	-	-	4,842
The liabilities outstanding amount to (D)	-	-	8,037
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Excess of expenditures over appropriation,	-	-	<u>\$3,195</u>

The superintendent has endeavored, in all the progress of these improvements to limit his engagements to the means in his hands for these purposes. In extensive a work as he has had before him, the most carefully prepared estimates are liable to variation from the many causes which operate to produce them, and which no human skill can at all times foresee. But this variation has been remarkably affected by the rapid advance in all species of building materials, equal in the case of iron, to nearly 75 per cent., and the consequent advance in species of mechanical labor. Still, with all these drawbacks, the superintendent would have arrested the work as soon as his means were exhausted, did not the security of the building commenced require a prosecution of it until it was covered, and thus protected from the weather. To accomplish these ends, under the disadvantages referred to, he has exceeded his estimates only \$3,195 45.

The superintendent hopes that provision will be made to complete the two wings now or soon to be covered in, the estimate for which is \$11,804 50, making, with the above balance, the sum of \$15,000.

As the superintendent has had the entire personal superintendence and direction of these extensive improvements from the beginning, he desires that the board would give to this subject a careful consideration, and satisfy themselves fully to the manner in which his duty in this respect has been discharged. With the above sum of \$15,000, these improvements will have cost only \$91,000, a sum which will be found to be far below the ordinary cost of such buildings.

In the above exhibit of the financial operations of the institute, it is important to bear in mind that the "Virginia military institute" account alone is that upon which the current support of the institute depends. The subsistence department account and the quartermaster's account embrace the operations of departments which were organized upon the principle of being *self-supporting*, and although they have enabled us to provide for many necessary wants which the Virginia military institute fund did not and could not meet, no charge out of the legitimate range of these departments should be imposed upon them. The treasurer's report very properly consolidates the balances on all these accounts in his recapitulation as exhibiting the actual state of the funds of the institute. The building fund is of course a special fund, kept distinct as having reference to special operations—not presumed to be permanent.

## COURSE OF INSTRUCTION.

The course of instruction in the institute is distributed among six distinct departments, viz: 1. Mathematics. 2. English and Latin languages. 3. Engineering, drawing and geography. 4. Chemistry, geology and mineralogy. 5. Natural and experimental philosophy. 6. French language.

1. The mathematical chair is held by the superintendent. Instruction is given to the 2d, 3d and 4th classes, divided into 8 sections—each section occupying one hour and a half daily. In these duties he has been efficiently assisted by Capt. D. Stuart and Lieut. Jas. W. Allen. With every disposition, from personal as well as official consideration, to carry out the order of the board of June 1851, in appointing an adjunct professor of mathematics, an examination of the means the institute has satisfied me, as I am sure it will the board, that without additional aid from the state, such a burthen cannot be assumed. The board are fully aware of the considerations which prompted their order, and the superintendent would refer to his special communication as setting forth the urgency of the appropriation for the relief which has been asked.

2. In the department of English and Latin, instruction is given to the 1st class in rhetoric, English grammar and literature and logic—and to the 2d and 3d classes in Latin, embracing in all 8 sections, with one assistant, Lieut. Thomas Harris. The professor also superintends the declamation and composition exercises of the 3d and 4th classes, once a week, for a portion of the session.

3. The engineering, &c. department is under the exclusive charge of the professor, and embraces five recitations a fortnight of the 1st class in two sections in engineering; triweekly drawing lessons to the entire 2d class of two hours each; triweekly drawing lessons to the 3d class of two hours each, from the 15th January, and at the same hours as the 2d class; and recitations in geography by the 4th class to the 1st January.

4. The chemical department is under the exclusive charge of the professor. His duties consist of recitations from one section of the 2d class in chemistry twice a week, and the same number of recitations from two sections of the 1st class in geology, mineralogy and agricultural chemistry. To the professor of this department is assigned the duties of commandant of cadets and instructor of infantry tactics, and in these duties he is assisted by Capt. Stuart and Lieuts. Allen and Harris.

5. The philosophical department is under the exclusive charge of the professor. The instruction is given to two sections of the 1st class and to one section of the 2d class, making a daily recitation of three hours. To the professor of this department is also assigned the duty of instructor of artillery.

6. The French department gives instruction in the French language to two sections of the 3d class, reciting daily one hour each, until the 1st January; and to four sections of the 4th class in English and French, with daily recitations of one hour each. The instructor of French is assisted by Cadet Silvester, who has charge of one section.

Bible instruction is given gratuitously on Sabbath afternoon by the superintendent to the 1st and 2d classes; by the professor of English and Latin to the 3d class, and by the professor of chemistry to the 4th class.

The above outline, together with the special reports of the professors, which are herewith presented, and to which, with the suggestions contained therein, attention of the board is invited, will give a full view of the course of instruction in the institution.

The special consideration of the board is called to the report of the commandant of cadets in reference to the necessities of the corps of cadets for a military band. Martial music is not only an essential in all military establishments, but in such an institution as this, the influence of a good band would be great in promoting order and discipline. To these considerations I would add, that the cadets are annually subjected to the necessity of hiring music for the graduation exercises, at an expense of some \$300 for two or three days' service. It does not seem to be right that they should bear this expense, and yet their desire and dependence upon the music are so great, that they would undergo any sacrifice within their means to procure it.

#### WATER PRIVILEGE.

From the summary steps taken by the authorities of the town of Lexington to stop the water privilege possessed by the institute under special contract with the town, it became necessary for the superintendent, at the April term of the superior court, to apply for an injunction. A temporary injunction was granted, and the case will be tried on its merits in September next, unless in the meantime a amicable adjustment of the matter in controversy can be effected. In the spirit of compromise suggested by the court, the superintendent presented to the corporation of Lexington the proposition marked E, and accompanying this report, which he received a verbal reply that it was not accepted.

#### INVESTIGATION BY A COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

Upon the complaint of Peyton Johnston of the city of Richmond, a committee of the senate was appointed in March last to enquire into the general management of the institute, and particularly into the conduct of the superintendent in dismissing the ward of the complainant, Miles C. Macou. The superintendent promptly obeyed the summons of the committee, and afforded to them and to the complainant every facility for a full examination into his official conduct. The result of the investigation was a report from the committee, which is herewith presented. The testimony was carefully taken down, but has not been printed. The superintendent would suggest whether it be not expedient and due to the institution that the entire evidence be printed. Satisfactory as is the report of the committee, it is desirable and proper, when public officers are charged with malfeasance in the discharge of their duty, and are arraigned before the tribunal of the public, that the fullest publicity be given to their vindication.

One subject claimed the attention of the committee which is not adverted to in their report, viz: the practice of maltreating the new cadets. I had always considered that these practices resulted from the thoughtlessness and inconsideration of youth, and could be best arrested by an appeal to the pride and honor of the cadets themselves. I have constantly opposed stringent orders of discipline on this subject, believing that they tended rather to aggravate the grievance, by driving the offenders into more secret modes of tormenting the new cadets. Such were the views presented to the committee. They were deemed reasonable, and I assumed the responsibility of pledging the cadets to an entire disuse of such practices for the future; if authorized and permitted to present to

the duty which their honor and the reputation of the institute demanded of me. I am happy to be able now to report that this pledge has been redeemed, and I beg leave to lay before the board the proceedings of a meeting of the cadets on the subject, to be communicated to the general assembly. The course adopted by these cadets is in the highest degree honorable to them, as evincing a determination not to render to others what they have themselves received; and fullest publicity should be given to their proceedings.

In connection with the subject, I would state that the committee of the senate suggest, what must be manifest to all to be much needed, a complete review and classification of our regulations. The seeming conflict between many of them makes it difficult to interpret them, while the many changes introduced in later years render this revision indispensable.

This session completes the 14th year of the Virginia military institute. It is gratifying to its friends and to the friends of education everywhere, to trace its progress from its rude and stormy origin to the respectability, reputation and influence which it now enjoys. Engaging at first the interest and co-operation of only a few friends, and upon untried and doubtful experiment, it has forced its way by slow but certain steps into public notice, possessing at home the confidence and support of the people of our state, and enjoying abroad a reputation equal with that of the highest of our American institutions of learning. In this time, the rude soldiers' barracks have been replaced by the handsome quarters now occupied by the cadets; the germ of a library and philosophical apparatus has been formed; the heavy artillery and infantry arms have been substituted by the beautiful battery and percussion musket of the cadet; while the course of instruction has been by degrees extended, so as to embrace as full a range of scientific and literary studies as was compatible with the character and destiny of the institution. Already we have prepared for the duties of life 227 graduates, one-half of these having been making their impress upon the educational interests of our state, upwards of 50 being now engaged in the duty of *teaching*. Some 10 more are actively pressing forward the *internal improvements* of the state, making at this time nearly 100 of our graduates who are lending the influence of their talents and education to the development of these two important state interests. And these are *Virginia* youths who are engaged in these works! What a reform! It is no longer a reproach to a Virginian to teach in our schools or to labor at the rod of the engineer. We are no longer dependent upon northern teachers and northern engineers—but now, with the co-operation of our sister state institution of learning, we are sending abroad the *native teacher* and the *native civil engineer* to form the mind and to develop the resources of our own state.

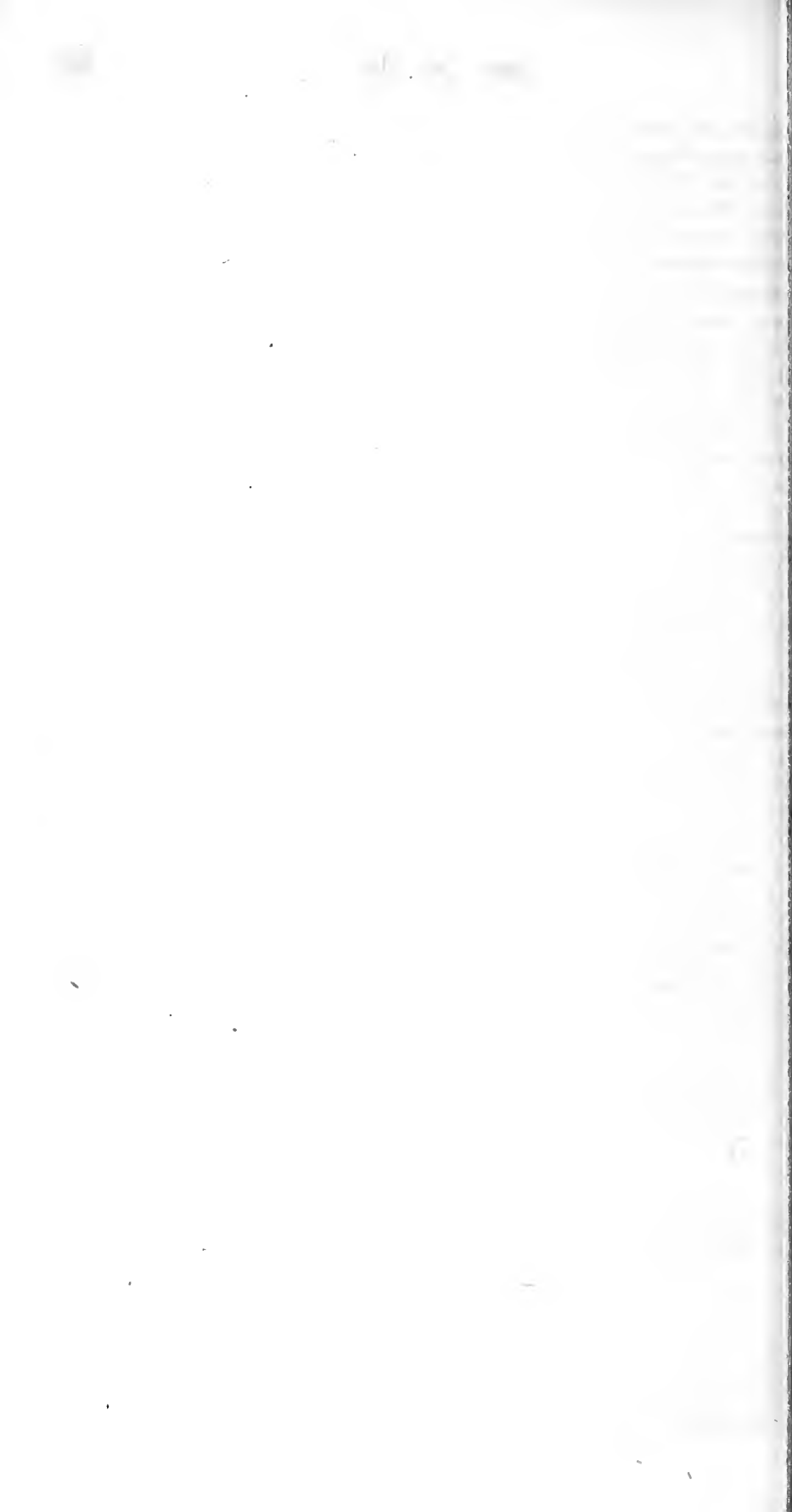
I would devoutly recognize the hand of God in all that he has enabled this institution to accomplish; and commending all its interests to the respectful consideration of the board,

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

FRANCIS H. SMITH,  
*Sup't V. M. I.*

GEN. FRANCIS M. BOYKIN,  
*Pres't Board Visitors V. M. I.*





## A.

*Statement of the Receipts and Liabilities of the Virginia Military Institute from  
the 1st July 1853 to 30th June 1854.*

## RECEIPTS :

Annual state appropriation,	-	-	-	-	7,710 00
Literary fund	-	-	-	-	1,500 00
Admission fees 90 pay cadets,	-	-	-	-	4,500 00
Pay of quartermaster and ordnance serg't,	-	-	-	-	360 00
Commission account, estimated,	-	-	-	-	650 00
Diplomas,	-	-	-	-	125 00
Total receipts,	-	-	-	-	14,845 00

## LIABILITIES :

Current expenses, as per statement 1,	-	-	-	-	13,900 00
Available surplus,	-	-	-	-	\$ 945 00

## 1.

*Estimated Annual Current Expenses Virginia Military Institute.*

Board, washing, &c. for 32 state cadets, at \$ 112, statement 2,	-	3,584
Salary of superintendent,	-	2,000
Salaries of four professors and surgeon,	-	4,496
Salaries of instructor of French, treasurer and assistant professors,	-	2,150
Pay of ordnance and quartermaster sergeant,	-	360
Musicians,	-	700
Servants and contingencies,	-	610
		<u>\$ 13,900</u>

## 2.

*Estimated Annual Expenses to the Virginia Military Institute of a State Cadet exclusive of Tuition, Medical Attendance and Lodging.*

Board for average of 10½ months, at \$ 7 50,	-	78
Washing " " " 1 25,	-	13
Fuel, lights, books, &c., estimated,	-	20
		<u>\$ 112</u>

E. E.

FRANCIS H. SMITH,  
Sup't Va. Mil. Inst.

## B.

## QUARTERMASTER'S REPORT AND ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

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QUARTERMASTER'S DEPARTMENT,  
VA. MILITARY INSTITUTE,  
June 19, 1853.

W. F. H. SMITH,

*Superintendent V. M. I.*

SIR,

I have the honor to present herewith detailed statements of the operations of the quartermaster's department for the present fiscal year, ending June 30, 1853.

Statement 1 exhibits the amount of payments made by the treasurer of the Virginia military institute, on account of the quartermaster's department, during the year, amounting to \$21,621 93, which is offset by credits from sale of merchandise to officers and cadets, amounting to \$22,535 93, leaving a balance to the credit of the department, of \$914.

By reference to statement 2, it will be perceived that the liabilities of the department amount to the sum of \$9,307 32; to meet which, there remains in charge of the quartermaster property to the amount of \$10,337 71, as per inventory, leaving a balance in favor of the department, of \$1,030 39, which, with the balance of \$914 against the treasurer, leaves a total balance to the credit of the department, of \$1,944 39.

Statement 3 shows the number of coats, pants and other articles of clothing furnished to the cadets during the year, as specified in the monthly abstracts of the tailor employed by the department. The receipts from the manufacture of these articles, at the fixed prices exhibited in the statement, amount to the sum of \$1,871 56. From which deduct the payments to tailor of \$1,755, and the balance is the gain accruing to the department from this source.

The balances still due by ex-cadets, as exhibited in statement 4, have been charged to the treasurer, and included in the total balance to the credit of the department. Should the debts prove bad that are so marked in the statement, the amount will have to be refunded to the treasurer, and deducted from the present balance against him.

The quartermaster's department has been in operation for ten years, and the balance to its credit, including bad debts and perishable property, amounts to \$1,944 39. This department, therefore, instead of being a source of profit to the institute, really embarrasses its financial operations, inasmuch as the heavy

outlays which we are compelled to make, with no means but those furnished the cadets, often requires temporary aid from the funds of the other department. It must also appear from this small balance, that the object for which this department was established, to furnish good and necessary articles of clothing to the cadets at the lowest possible prices, has been fully met in its management.

The quartermaster would respectfully request a careful examination of the department in all its details, by the board of visitors, that they may satisfy themselves of the cheap and substantial character of the goods, and of the accuracy with which the accounts of his department are kept.

Respectfully submitted.

RICHARD H. CATLETT,  
*Quartermaster V. M. I.*



DR. *Statement of Receipts and Disbursements by Treasurer Va. Mil. Institute*

1852.					
June 30,	To balance to credit of quartermaster's department,				423 7
Sept. 1,	" amount of goods furnished cadets, as per abst.				3,363 9
Oct. 1,	Do.	do.	do.	-	5,174 7
Nov. 1,	Do.	do.	do.	-	1,190 7
Dec. 30,	Do.	do.	do.	-	3,940 3
1853.					
Feb. 1,	Do.	do.	do.	-	3,153 5
Mar. 1,	Do.	do.	do.	-	1,233 3
May 15,	Do.	do.	do.	-	1,240 5
June 1,	Do.	do.	do.	-	2,814 2

\$ 22,535 1

Balance to credit of Q. M. Dep't June 30, 1853,

\$ 914

Account of Quartermaster's Department, for year ending June 30, 1853.

CR.

1852.				
July and Aug.,	By cash paid sundries,	-	-	11,035 02
	sundry cadets,	-	-	148 99
September,	cash paid sundries,	-	-	869 54
November,	do. do.	-	-	570 03
December,	sundry cadets,	-	-	149 07
1853.				
January,	cash paid sundries,	-	-	1,616 79
February,	do. do.	-	-	2,236 75
March,	do. do.	-	-	1,327 10
"	do. do.	-	-	346 93
April,	do. do.	-	-	747 95
May,	do. do.	-	-	759 08
"	sundries,	-	-	606 77
June,	do.	-	-	1,207 91
	Balance to credit Q. M. Dep't,	-	-	914 00
				<u>\$ 22,535 93</u>

E. E.

R. H. CATLETT, Q. M. V. M. I.

Dr. *Statement exhibiting the Condition of the Quartermaster's*

1853.			
June 30—To	J. M. Davies & Jones, New York,	-	745 6
	F. W. Seabury, Norfolk,	-	1,075 1
	D. Evans & Co., Attleboro', Massachusetts,	-	279 3
	W. H. Cary & Co., New York,	-	51 5
	T. Cowperthwait & Co., Philadelphia,	-	938 9
	C. J. Du Pont & Co., Wilmington,	-	2,235 2
	Hostmann & Sons, Philadelphia,	-	263 3
	Bacon & Baskerville, Richmond,	-	183 4
	Wm. Ritter, do.	-	250 0
	J. L. Deaver, Lexington,	-	215 4
	A. Plunkett, do.	-	65 6
	J. H. Myers, do.	-	33 4
	M. S. Kahle, do.	-	107 3
	Geo. A. Baker, do.	-	219 3
	— Winn, do.	-	275 0
	John Humphreys, do.	-	450 0
	William Kinney, do.	-	90 0
	H. Sharrer, do.	-	486 5
	Compton & Sloan, do.	-	24 4
	Figgat & Middleton, do.	-	300 0
	S. Vanderslice, do.	-	431 5
	Ball account, -	-	427 0
	Outstanding accounts, estimated,	-	100 0
	Balance to credit of Q. M. Dep't,	-	1,944 0

\$ 11,251 1



Department of the Virginia Military Institute, June 30, 1853.

CR.

1853.

June 30—Net value of available property on hand, all of which will be in re-			
quisition during the next year, as per quartermaster's inventory,			10,337 71
Balance against treasurer V. M. I.	-	-	914 00

\$11,251 71

E. E.

R. H. CATLETT, Q. M. V. M. I.

*Statement showing the Operations of the Tailor's Department Virginia Military Institute for the year ending June 30, 1853.*

			W. Coats.	Overcoats.	W. Pants.	S. Pants.	W. Vests.	S. Vests.	F. Jackets.	Repairing.
July,	-	-	13	-	-	93	-	4	-	2
August,	-	-	22	-	-	52	-	-	18	2
September,	-	-	24	-	68	29	-	-	-	1
October,	-	-	21	-	36	-	4	-	-	4
November,	-	-	22	10	8	-	10	-	-	7
December,	-	-	14	-	20	-	1	-	-	12
January,	-	-	16	-	38	-	-	-	-	8
February,	-	-	28	-	33	-	-	-	-	9
March,	-	-	26	-	10	-	-	-	-	43
April,	-	-	20	-	3	96	-	-	-	42
May,	-	-	6	-	-	95	-	-	-	6
June,	-	-	27	-	-	7	-	28	-	2
			239	10	216	372	15	32	18	\$144

*Payment to Tailor 1852-3.*

October 1—To quarter's salary to date,	-	-	-	431 25
January 1—To do. do.	-	-	-	461 25
April 1—To do. do.	-	-	-	431 25
July 1—To do. do.	-	-	-	431 25
				<u>\$ 1,755 00</u>

*Receipts from Tailor.*

239 cadets' coats, at \$ 4,	-	-	-	956 00
10 " overcoats, at \$ 4,	-	-	-	40 00
216 pair winter pants, at \$ 1 25,	-	-	-	270 00
372 pair summer pants, at \$ 1,	-	-	-	372 00
15 winter vests, at \$ 1 50,	-	-	-	22 50
32 summer vests, at \$ 1 25,	-	-	-	40 00
18 fatigue jackets, at \$ 1 50,	-	-	-	27 00
Mending and altering clothes,	-	-	-	144 06
Total receipts from tailor's department June 30, 1853,	-	-	-	<u>\$ 1,871 56</u>

## RECAPITULATION.

Total receipts from tailor for year ending June 30, 1853,	-	-	1,871 56
Total payments to do. do.	-	-	<u>1,755 00</u>
Total gain in tailor's department,	-	-	<u>\$ 116 56</u>

E. E.

R. H. CATLETT, Q. M. V. M. I.

*Statement of Balances due by Ex-Cadets, on the Books of the Treasurer Virginia Military Institute June 30, 1853.*

Bridges, E. T.	-	-	-	81	27	Tutwiler, M. F.	-	-	-	14
Roberts, Geo.	-	-	-	67	05	Van Doren, W. S.	-	-	-	182
Tyler, R.	-	-	-	8	75	Waddill, George,	-	-	-	37
Bronaugh, C.	-	-	-	217	02	Williams, C.	-	-	-	175
Byrd, J.	-	-	-	42	01	Erwin, W. D.	-	-	-	62
Tyler, N.	-	-	-	34	64	Colston, R. T.	-	-	-	7
Ellison,	-	-	-	3	50	Kennedy, D.	-	-	-	12
Henderson, J. F.	-	-	-	43	50	Dudley, A. B.	-	-	-	52
Archer, E. C.	-	-	-	70	10	Mason, H. C.	-	-	-	68
Benson, J. R.	-	-	-	70	45	Robins,	-	-	-	87
Daniel, R. T.	-	-	-	76	48	Fortney, W.	-	-	-	70
Giles, James	-	-	-	32	73					
Kerr, H.	-	-	-	79	36					
Malcolm, S. S.	-	-	-	88	37					
										\$1,685

About \$600 of the above amount may be regarded as bad debts.

## C.

SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT V. M. I.,  
June 1853.

OL. F. H. SMITH,

*Superintendent V. M. I.*

SIR,

Herewith I have the honor to present the required annual exhibit of the operations of the subsistence department for the year ending June 1853.

The current expense and sinking fund accounts show the balance remaining to be \$1,438, of which sum there has been expended \$233 22 in the purchase of material for building the new mess hall, leaving a balance of \$1,204 78 available for this purpose, as exhibited thus:

Dr.—To balance on treasurer's ledger,	-	-	-	5,725 52
Outstanding claims against the department,	-	-	-	5,676 27
				<hr/>
Cr.—By balance,	-	-	-	49 25
“ in favor of department,	-	-	-	311 66
Amount of provisions on hand,	-	-	-	843 87
				<hr/>
				<u>\$1,204 78</u>

The inventory of property remaining on hand and in current use shows the value of silver to be	-	-	-	640 00
Two servants,	-	-	-	1,049 00
Property in store, (new,)	-	-	-	512 43
“ “ (old,)	-	-	-	41 61
Articles in use at their estimated present value,	-	-	-	1,469 84
Hospital furniture in use,	-	-	-	288 35
				<hr/>
				<u>\$4,001 23</u>

The following statement exhibits the annual depreciation in value of property in current use, and loss by breakage or otherwise:

Value of property June 1, 1852,	-	-	-	3,618 81
Undry purchases to June 1853,	-	-	-	667 76
				<hr/>
				4,286 57
Damages refunded,	100 64			
Less amount for use, &c. of silver,	62 00			
	<hr/>			
		38 64		
Loss by ordinary wear, breakage, &c.		246 70		
		<hr/>		
			285 34	
			<hr/>	
				<u>\$4,001 23</u>

Being 18 cents per month to each cadet for ordinary breakage and wear of perishable articles, and is exclusive of the estimated depreciation in value of the more costly, though less destructible articles, as the steam generator, range, and bake-oven, which, being in daily use, are liable to give out at any time, and thereby greatly increase the loss sustained in the current use of cooking utensils. In making an estimate, therefore, of the entire cost of subsisting each cadet, it would be necessary to at least double the above amount, making it 36 cents, the probable loss by breakage, wear, &c. of utensils and furniture. This, with the monthly average of \$6 42, as exhibited in the table prepared for that purpose, gives the sum of \$6 78 as the monthly expense, leaving the balance, 2 cents per month each, to meet the various contingencies that necessarily occur in such an establishment.

In addition to the usual papers presented, a comparative statement, table, has been constructed, by which, it is hoped, the causes producing the increase of the cost of maintaining the establishment will be fully apparent. By reference to this table it will be seen that a gradual increase in the cost of provisions has been going on for the period indicated therein, until now, 1853, it has reached about ten per cent. over that of 1850.

Table 2, appended to the above, shows the comparative consumption of some of the principal articles of provision by each person subsisted in 1850 and 1853.

The furniture, &c. of the hospital having been turned over to this department, together with the whole charge of its maintenance, a statement is herewith presented, setting forth, in part, the receipts and disbursements on this account during the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

JNO. T. GIBBS,

*Com'y Sub. F. M. I.*



Dr.

*Current Expenses of the Subsistence Department*

1852.			
July 1, To Provisions on hand, as per statement,	-	-	- 1,085 7
1853.			
June 1, To Provisions purchased during year,	-	-	- 9,207 5
Wood purchased during the year,	-	-	- 390 5
" 30, To Salary of commissary and hire of cooks, baker, waiters and laborer,			1,421 1
Washing for mess hall, servants and board of visitors,	-	-	- 164 0
Charles Boyle, chopping wood, gardening, &c.	-	-	- 74 0
Freight and hauling provisions,	-	-	- 143 3
Oil, brooms, &c.	-	-	- 51 7
Hay and oats,	-	-	- 345 5
Estimated amount of provisions required to 30th June,	-	-	- 350 0
Ice for 1852,	-	-	- 60 5
Medicine and attendance, servant Anderson,	-	-	- 15 0
Sundries,	-	-	- 359 3
Hire of boy Alfred from January 1852 to Dec. 1852,	-	-	- 115 0
Hire of boy Jim from 25th Oct. 1850 to 24th Oct. 1853,	-	-	- 210 9
Balance transferred to sinking fund,	-	-	- 1,450 4
			<u>\$15,443 3</u>



Virginia Military Institute for the year ending 30th June 1853.

C R.

1853.			
June 30—By Board of 113 cadets, at \$ 90 each,	-	-	- 10,170 00
Sales to officers,	-	-	- 746 99
Amount refunded by board of visitors,	-	-	- 403 35
Estimated for provisions from 1st to 30th June 1852,	-	-	- 350 00
Sundries for ball supper, 1852,	-	-	- 60 89
Provisions returned to contractor,	-	-	- 40 00
Of sales of Tallow, grease and soap,	-	-	- 146 54
Pork and lard,	-	-	- 294 17
Hhds. and barrels,	-	-	- 24 24
Sundries, including horse-feed, &c.	-	-	- 1,233 88
Board of engineer and laborers,	-	-	- 1,130 00
Provisions on hand, -	-	-	- 843 87

\$ 15,443 93

E. E.

JNO. T. GIBBS,  
Commissary Sub. V. M. I.

COL. F. H. SMITH, Supt. V. M. I.

DR.

*Sinking Fund Account Subsister*

1853.

June 1—To Tyndale & Mitchell, crockery,	-	-	-	85
24 dozen knives, -	-	-	-	72
2 dozen lamp chimneys and wicks,	-	-	-	4
Timber for hog-pen,	-	-	-	30
Timber and carpentering for hog-pen and general repairs,	-	-	-	28
Bricklayer, repairing kitchen,	-	-	-	3
Mess hall tables,	-	-	-	12
17 stools,	-	-	-	6
T. M. Wade, tin ware, and repairing same,	-	-	-	60
28 shoats,	-	-	-	85
1 cow,	-	-	-	20
Sundries,	-	-	-	10
120½ yards table diaper,	-	-	-	63
Furniture in hospital,	-	-	-	269
Silver spoons in hospital,	-	-	-	18
Amount transferred to new mess hall account,	-	-	-	1,438

\$ 2,207

Department Virginia Military Institute, June 1853,

Cr.

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1852.					
July 1—By balance, as per statement,	-	-	-	-	93 86
1853.					
June 1—By balance from current expense account,	-	-	-	-	1,450 64
Hire, board and clothing of hospital waiter,			-	-	153 50
Amount of damages refunded,			-	-	100 64
Sundries,	-	-	-	-	1 98
Sundry credits in favor of sub. dep. omitted in former account,	-			-	407 17

---

\$ 2,207 79


---

DR.

*New Mess Hall.*

1853.

---

June—To 206 loads sand,	-	-	-	-	-	206
Iron pipe and fittings,	-	-	-	-	-	27
Balance,	-	-	-	-	-	1,204
						<u>\$1,438</u>

*New Mess Hall,*C<sub>R</sub>.

1853.

ine—By amount transferred,

- 1,438 00

\$1.438 00*E. E.*

JNO. T. GIBBS,  
*Commissary Sub. V. M. I.*

COL. F. H. SMITH, *S. V. M. I.*

*Table exhibiting the Average Cost of Subsistence of each Cadet for the year ending  
June 1853.*

DATE.	Monthly Average.	DATE.	Monthly Average.
1852—July, - - -	\$6 28	1853—January, - - -	\$6 60
August, - - -	6 19	February, - - -	6 50
September, - - -	5 64	March, - - -	7 08
October, - - -	5 77	April, - - -	6 78
November, - - -	6 37	May, - - -	6 77
December, - - -	6 31	June, - - -	6 77

Monthly average cost, \$6 42.

## D.

*Statement exhibiting the Condition of the Building Fund of the Virginia Military Institute.*

CR.				
Amount of state appropriation,	-	-	-	76,000 00
DR.				
Amount of expenditures, as per report June 1852,			50,769 90	
Heating and lighting arrangements,	-		14,493 00	
Building wings,	-	-	7,694 97	
			<u>72,957 87</u>	
Balance to the credit of building fund in treasurer's report,	-	-		3,042 13
Property on hand,	-	-	-	1,800 00
				<u>\$ 4,842 13</u>

## LIABILITIES:

Richmond savings institution,	-	-	-	4,604 78	
Morris, Tasker & Morris, estimated,	-	-	-	500 00	
Licklaying,	"	-	-	600 00	
Carpentry,	"	-	-	500 00	
Anderson & Souther,	-	-	-	633 00	
Edmont works,	-	-	-	400 00	
Contingencies,	-	-	-	800 00	
				<u>8,037 78</u>	
Excess of expenditures,	-	-	-		<u>\$ 3,195 65</u>

## PROPERTY ON HAND:

Horses,	-	-	-	-	-	150
"	-	-	-	-	-	620
Ox team,	-	-	-	-	-	120
Four-horse wagons, &c.	-	-	-	-	-	300
Two " "	-	-	-	-	-	80
One-horse carts,	-	-	-	-	-	60
Ox cart,	-	-	-	-	-	20
One for building,	-	-	-	-	-	200
Improvements,	-	-	-	-	-	50
Horse power and crusher,	-	-	-	-	-	100
Iron and brick,	-	-	-	-	-	100
						<u>\$ 1,800</u>

E. E.

FRANCIS H. SMITH, *Sup't.*

TABLE I.

*Comparative Statement of the Cost of Provisions at the Prices paid during the years 1850, '51, '52 and '53, based upon the Amount consumed during April 1853; also exhibiting the Consumption of Provisions during April 1850, and contrasting the Prices of that year with those of 1853, for the same Articles.*

Quantities used in April 1853.	ARTICLES.	1850.		1851.		1852.		1853.		Quantities used in April 1850.	Cost 1850.	Cost 1853.
		Cost.		Cost.		Cost.		Cost.				
4½ bushels	Alum,	-	3 56	-	75c	-	5 94	-	75c	4 pounds,	28	28
225 pounds	Apples,	-	20 25	-	8½c	\$1 25c	22 50	-	10c	375 pounds,	33 75	37 50
9½ bushels	Bacon,	-	4 75	-	50c	50c	4 75	-	37½c	6 bushels,	3 00	2 25
2881½ pounds	Beef,	-	151 54	-	4½c	-	185 20	-	172 89	3693½ pounds,	121 21	161 61
486 "	Mutton,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5c	-	-	-
700 "	Butter,	-	110 62	-	12½c	12½, 16½c	110 62	-	12½, 16½c	455 pounds,	61 35	61 35
125	Cabbage,	-	3 75	-	3c	3c	3 75	-	3c	-	-	-
4	Chickens,	-	50	-	12½c	50	50	-	12½c	-	-	-
1 pound	Cloves,	-	30	-	30	30	30	-	50	-	-	-
213 pounds	Coffee,	-	21 30	-	12½c	12½c	26 62½	-	11c	208 pounds,	26 80	29 48
36 bushels	Corn,	-	14 40	-	50c	56c	20 16	-	56c	50 bushels,	20 00	28 00
	Cream Tartar,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 pounds,	60	75
	Currents,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	34 pounds,	4 25	4 25
50 dozen	Eggs,	-	4 16	-	8½c	8½c	4 16	-	8½c	41 dozen,	3 42	3 42
20 barrels	Flour,	-	80 00	-	\$ 4 40c	\$ 3 65c	73 00	-	\$ 4 00	13 barrels,	53 00	52 00
	Ginger,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 pounds,	80	80
	Hominy,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 bushel,	50	56
80 pounds	Lard,	-	8 00	-	8c	10c	8 00	-	10c	35 pounds,	3 50	3 50
453½ gallons	Milk,	-	61 94	-	12½c	12½c	61 94	-	12½c	251½ gallons,	31 43	31 43
20 "	Molasses,	-	8 00	-	44c	44c	8 80	-	44c	41½ "	16 50	18 15
	Molasses,	-	1 00	-	50c	40c	80	-	40c	7 pounds,	3 50	2 80



[illegible]

TABLE II.

*Comparative Quantities of the principal Articles of Provisions used during the month of April 1850, subsisting 120 Persons, and April 1853, subsisting 120 Persons.*

ARTICLES.	Amount used.	1850. Average to each person.		Amount used.	1853. Average to each person.	
		Per month.	Per day.		Per month.	Per day.
Beef and bacon, lbs.	3068	25.56	.851	3592	25.65	.855
Butter, "	455	3.79	.12	700	5.00	.16
Coffee, "	268	2.23	.07	213	1.52	.05
Flour and meal, "	5048	.42	1.40	5720	40.86	1.36
Milk, galls.	251	2.09	.06	495	3.53	.11
Molasses, "	41	.34	.11	20	.15	.05
Potatoes, bush.	27	.22	.07	51	.36	.12
Sugar, brown and white, lbs.	905	7.45	.25	962	7.45	.22

JNO. T. GIBBS,  
Com'y Sub. V. M. I.

COL. F. H. SMITH,  
Superintendent V. M. I.

## VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE,

*In account with R. E. COLSTON, Treasurer*

DR.

	Voucher.	V. M. I.	Q. M. Dep.	Building Acct.	Subsist. Dep.
1852, June.					
o balance (June 15th, 1852,) as per last report,	-	17 33			
To amount paid					
nderson, clothing,	1	-	10 00		
. Harris,	2	-	11 25		
C. Smith, clock,	3	665 00	100 00		
rs. Harris, washing,	4	-	252 29		
ol. Smith, rings of first class,	5	-	50 00		
ad. Whiting,	6	-	12 00		
. M. Wade,	7	-	-	100 00	
. Boyle,	8	-	-	10 50	
. Minature,	9	-	-	84 41	
V. A. Mann,	10	-	-	8 25	
D. Markey,	11	-	-	4 00	
adet Mayo, J., salary as assistant professor,	12	25 00			
" Patton, do.	12	20 00			
" Silvester, do.	13	45 00			
" Mayo, J., do.	13	20 00			
" Blankenship, do.	13	35 00			
July.					
adet Silvester, do.	14	30 00			
ajor Williamson, sal. to Sept. 1st, and house					
rent,	15	200 00	60 00		
Compton,	16	2 58	1 15	30 03	862 81
Do.	17	-	-	-	19 24
acon & Baskervill,	18	18 38	234 96	850 08	432 28
apt. Colston, salary for July,	19	66 66			
. V. & J. Banker,	20	290 45			
r. Jordan, postage,	21	6 63			
. Porter,	22	84 75			
erg't Baldanf, to July 1st,	23	240 00			
rs. Winn, washing,	24	-	200 00		
ajor Jackson, house rent,	25	-	96 38		
r. Thornton, ball expenses,	26	-	163 00		
. B. Shaver,	27	-	321 12	102 50	50 88
. J. Dupont & Co.	18	-	2688 41		
. Cowperthwait & Co.	18	-	1339 04		
orris, Tasker & Morris,	18	-	-	5304 35	
avies & Jones,	28	-	1185 83		
Vm. Ritter,	29	-	533 81		
. D. Humphreys,	30	-	271 65		
apt. Colston, bal. due on house rent 1851-52,	31	-	57 83		
. Vanderslice,	32	-	441 14		
undries,	33	-	602 41		
. H. Catlett, salary to Oct. 1st, and as sec'y					
board visitors,	34	-	125 00	-	25 00
. Harris,	35	-	6 00		
os. Winn,	36	-	11 17		
. Wiley,	37	-	250 49		
. T. Gibbs,	38	-	105 00		
r. McClelland,	39	-	13 87		
. G. Pole,	40	-	-	200 00	
. Leech,	41	-	-	115 72	
inature, laborer,	42	-	-	4 16	
orris, Tasker & Morris,	43	-	-	6948 97	
r. McCorkle,	44	-	-	26 83	

	Voucher.	V. M. I.	Q. M. Dep.	Building Acct.	Subsi. Dep.
1852, July.					
Humphrey, - - - - -	45	-	-	5 57	
J. Seay, - - - - -	46	-	-	18 54	
Jordan & Jordan, - - - - -	47	-	-	266 88	
S. Charlton, - - - - -	48	-	-	89 36	
R. C. Logan, - - - - -	49	-	-	117 06	
J. Parks, - - - - -	50	-	-	5 25	
Sundries, - - - - -	51	-	-	161 95	
J. Middleton, - - - - -	52	-	-	89 63	
R. H. Figgatt, - - - - -	53	-	-	9 00	
Mr. Mason, - - - - -	54	-	-	37 42	
Bryan & Randolph, - - - - -	55	-	-	36 07	
R. H. Stratton, - - - - -	56	-	-	19 97	
Echols & Pryor, - - - - -	57	-	-	201 79	
J. G. Wright, - - - - -	58	-	-	205 00	
Mr. Booker, - - - - -	59	-	-	28 00	
C. Birmingham, - - - - -	60	-	-	100 00	
W. Breslin, - - - - -	61	-	37 90	120 00	
W. & P. Kenny, - - - - -	62	-	100 00	50 00	
C. Boyle, - - - - -	63	-	-	70 00	
W. Schmartz, - - - - -	64	-	-	-	226
D. Hileman, - - - - -	65	-	-	-	384
J. Chapline, - - - - -	66	-	-	-	309
J. T. Gibbs, - - - - -	67	-	-	-	500
Mr. Campbell, - - - - -	68	-	-	-	14
H. Bancker, hair cutting, - - - - -	69	-	17 75	-	
Mrs. Winn, washing, - - - - -	70	-	162 68	-	
Mr. Plunket, - - - - -	71	-	74 62	-	
August.					
Mr. Bacon, - - - - -	72	-	-	8 87	
A. T. Sloan, bal. due on hand, - - - - -	73	-	-	945 36	
S. F. Jordan, - - - - -	74	-	-	249 91	
C. Starr & Co., clock bell, - - - - -	75	-	-	308 14	
E. Kent, - - - - -	75	78 88	-	-	
T. P. James, - - - - -	75	-	-	90 00	
T. McCorkle, - - - - -	76	-	-	60 00	78
J. M. Wilson, - - - - -	77	-	-	100 00	
J. Risk, - - - - -	78	-	-	22 22	11
A. Drummond, - - - - -	79	-	-	7 00	
Reuben, - - - - -	80	-	-	3 37	
Mr. Rhodes, - - - - -	81	-	-	7 50	
J. H. Myers, - - - - -	82	-	-	32 13	
Mr. Wallace, - - - - -	83	-	-	148 00	
Mr. Henderson, - - - - -	84	-	-	38 50	
Messrs. Archer & Co. - - - - -	85	-	-	12 00	
Capt. Stuart, salary July, August and Sept. - - - - -	86	125 00	-	-	
Major Gilham, " do. - - - - -	87	366 66	-	-	
Capt. Colston, " August, - - - - -	88	66 66	-	-	
J. R. Wright, - - - - -	89	28 25	-	-	
Major Preston, salary for July, - - - - -	90	100 00	-	-	
Major Jackson, do. - - - - -	91	100 00	-	-	
Mr. Deaver, - - - - -	92	-	75 68	-	
Mr. Marshall, water ram, - - - - -	93	-	50 00	-	
C. B. Williams, salary, - - - - -	94	-	50 00	-	
F. W. Seabury, - - - - -	95	-	750 00	-	
Major Gilham, - - - - -	96	-	85 00	-	
J. Fuller, - - - - -	97	-	9 62	-	
B. Harris, - - - - -	98	-	10 00	-	
Jesse Davis, - - - - -	99	-	30 00	-	
Mr. Gibbs, salary, - - - - -	100	-	-	-	83
S. Goyne, - - - - -	101	-	-	-	62
H. Adams, - - - - -	102	-	-	-	57
Mr. Dunlap, - - - - -	103	-	-	-	117
S. Morrisson, - - - - -	104	-	-	-	32

	Voucher.	V. M. I.	Q. M. Dep.	Building Acct.	Subsist. Dep.
1852, August.					
Johnston, - - - - -	105	-	-	-	44 11
Indries, as per abstract, - - - - -	106	-	117 99	-	
Do. do. - - - - -	107	-	-	-	27 00
September.					
organ & Smith, - - - - -	108	-	-	147 50	
r. Rollison, - - - - -	109	-	-	72 60	
borers on wings, - - - - -	110	-	-	333 11	
T. Bagby, bricklaying, - - - - -	111	-	-	100 00	
Kenny, wages, - - - - -	112	-	-	160 00	
r. Graham, sand, - - - - -	113	-	-	142 31	
r. Powers, - - - - -	114	-	-	50 00	
Boyle, - - - - -	115	-	-	30 00	
White, - - - - -	116	-	-	150 00	
cLaughlin, &c. - - - - -	117	-	-	146 00	
ajor Jackson, salary, August, - - - - -	118	100 00	-	-	
ajor Williamson, salary, Sept. - - - - -	119	100 00	-	-	
upt. Colston, - - - - -	120	66 67	-	-	
V. Bancker, wages, July and August, - - - - -	121	108 00	-	-	
ajor Preston, salary, August, - - - - -	122	100 00	-	-	
ajor Jackson, " Sept. - - - - -	123	100 00	-	-	
Birmingham, - - - - -	124	-	23 75	-	
S. Kahle, - - - - -	125	-	100 00	-	
r. Campbell, - - - - -	126	-	15 71	-	
Do. - - - - -	127	-	9 53	-	
aj. Alexander, - - - - -	128	-	25 00	-	
Harris, - - - - -	129	-	28 75	-	
Ruff, - - - - -	130	-	-	-	60 85
hitmore & Logan, - - - - -	131	-	-	-	49 29
Lowman, - - - - -	132	-	-	-	124 76
Gibson, - - - - -	133	-	-	-	230 07
r. Unroe, - - - - -	134	-	-	-	51 50
Indries, as per abstract, - - - - -	135	-	31 00	-	
M. Dep. fuel and lights of state cadets, - - - - -	135	850 00	-	-	
adet Clay, board refunded, - - - - -	136	-	-	-	22 50
October.					
ol. Smith, salary for July, - - - - -	137	166 66	-	-	
r. Porter, - - - - -	138	23 50	-	-	
ergeant Baldauf, - - - - -	139	50 00	-	-	
aj. Preston, sal. September, - - - - -	140	100 00	-	-	
r. Jordan, postage, - - - - -	141	10 29	-	-	
Fenton, - - - - -	142	172 00	-	-	
J. Williams, - - - - -	142	-	-	168 25	
Henderson, - - - - -	142	-	-	-	44 00
aj. Preston, sal. October, - - - - -	143	100 00	-	-	
esse Turner, - - - - -	144	-	8 75	-	
Vanderslice, - - - - -	145	-	431 50	-	
rs. Winn, - - - - -	146	-	201 04	-	
rs. Sloan, - - - - -	147	-	16 25	-	
rs. Magdalen, - - - - -	148	-	12 00	-	
rs. Winn, - - - - -	149	-	200 00	-	
r. Leyburn, - - - - -	150	-	-	100 00	
r. Booker, - - - - -	151	-	-	56 00	
Leadoun, - - - - -	152	-	-	30 25	
eady, - - - - -	153	-	-	33 00	
owers, - - - - -	154	-	-	125 00	
r. Mayse, - - - - -	155	-	-	50 00	
r. Cox, - - - - -	156	-	-	27 36	
Varner, - - - - -	157	-	-	75 00	
Jerry, - - - - -	158	-	-	16 16	
owers, - - - - -	159	-	-	10 00	
r. Gibbs, - - - - -	160	-	-	-	100 00
r. Hileman, - - - - -	161	-	-	-	192 26

	Voucher.	V. M. I.	Q. M. Dep.	Building Acct.	Subs Dej
November.					
Lient. Harris, sal. to October 1st,	162	100 00			
Capt. Stewart, sal. for October,	163	41 66			
Col. Smith, " August,	164	166 67			
A. V. Banker, wages to November 1st,	165	108 00			
Lient. Allen, sal. to October 1st,	166	100 00			
J. Fitzgerald, - - - - -	167	-	-	26 22	
Bagby, - - - - -	168	-	-	198 57	
Miller & Updike, - - - - -	169	-	-	154 00	
Jerry Kelly, - - - - -	170	-	-	10 00	
Col. Paxton, - - - - -	171	-	-	379 55	
Mr. Powers, - - - - -	172	-	-	10 00	
J. Giant, - - - - -	173	-	-	38 00	
Mr. Bagby, - - - - -	174	-	-	45 00	
Mr. Mayse, - - - - -	175	-	-	58 75	32
Mr. Gibbs, - - - - -	176	-	-	-	50
Mr. Compton, - - - - -	177	-	-	-	215
Mr. Gibbs, - - - - -	178	-	-	-	250
E. Breslin, - - - - -	179	-	10 00		
Mr. Catlett, sal. for October,	180	-	41 66		
R. Paine, - - - - -	181	-	20 00		
Capt. Colston, fuel for 1852-53,	182	-	52 00		
Sundries, as per abstract,	183	-	143 04		
" board refunded, - - - - -	184	-	-	-	51
December.					
Sundries, as per abstract,	185	-	6 03		
Mr. Catlett, - - - - -	186	-	5 75		
S. R. Smith, - - - - -	187	-	52 00		
W. Bell, wood, - - - - -	188	-	7 50		
Mr. Turner, - - - - -	189	-	43 75		
Crawford & Heck, - - - - -	190	-	29 37		
Tony, labor, - - - - -	191	-	5 00		
Jeff, hauling, - - - - -	192	-	5 00		
N. Bowlin, washing, - - - - -	193	-	37 50		
Mr. Shaver, - - - - -	194	-	260 50	-	82
Maj. Gilham, salary, - - - - -	195	116 66			
Maj. Jackson, " - - - - -	196	100 00			
Col. Smith, " September,	197	166 66			
" " October, - - - - -	198	166 66			
Capt. Colston, " to Dec. 31st,	199	200 00			
Col. Smith, " Nov. and Dec.	200	333 33			
Lient. Harris, " to Dec. 31st,	201	100 00			
Capt. Stewart, " December,	202	41 66			
Maj. Jackson, - - - - -	203	100 00			
Magdalen, - - - - -	204	-	-	-	44
Mr. Campbell, - - - - -	205	-	-	-	72
Anderson, clothes, - - - - -	206	-	-	-	15
D. Lowman, - - - - -	207	-	-	-	642
Mr. Kiber, - - - - -	208	-	-	-	100
B. Jordan, - - - - -	209	-	-	150 00	
Jenks, stone work, - - - - -	210	-	-	222 34	
Sundry laborers. - - - - -	211	-	-	259 53	
E. & W. Leyburn, - - - - -	212	-	-	200 00	
Josh. Parks, - - - - -	213	-	-	9 47	
R. Powers, stone work, - - - - -	214	-	-	18 75	
Dawson, carpenter, - - - - -	215	-	-	3 25	
Varner & Booker, carpenters,	216	-	-	176 50	
Mr. Welch, - - - - -	217	-	-	10 00	
Wright & Rollison, - - - - -	218	-	-	309 45	
Mr. Pole, - - - - -	219	-	-	58 85	
T. McCorkle, - - - - -	220	-	-	93 06	58
Mr. Warwick, - - - - -	221	-	-	90 00	
Mr. Senseney, - - - - -	222	-	-	72 20	
Mr. Wallace, - - - - -	223	-	-	125 60	

	Voucher.	V. M. I.	Q. M. Dep.	Building Acct.	Subsist. Dep.
January 1853.					
ndries, - - - - -	224	-	101 25		
b. Dep't, board of state cadets from July 1852 to July 1853, - - - - -	225	3281 38			
b. Dep't, hire of servants and sundry charges, - - - - -	225	234 50			
“ sundry charges, - - - - -	225	-	274 56		
“ board of hands, and forage, &c. - - - - -	225	-	-	3594 29	
Birmingham, - - - - -	226	-	-	60 00	
s. Edmonson, - - - - -	227	-	-	25 19	115 00
r. Trotter, for a horse, - - - - -	228	-	-	115 00	
W. Massie, fee in law suit, - - - - -	229	-	-	5 75	
Compton, hire of servant, - - - - -	230	-	-	120 00	
. Breslin, - - - - -	231	-	-	120 00	
. Rollison, - - - - -	232	-	-	101 71	
. Estill, - - - - -	233	-	-	34 00	
. Rollison, - - - - -	234	-	-	16 14	
. Welch, - - - - -	235	-	-	25 00	
r. Calett, sal. to Dec. 31st, - - - - -	236	-	83 16		
Ruff, wages of negroes, - - - - -	237	-	39 00		
onard, labor, - - - - -	238	-	6 75		
groes, “ - - - - -	239	-	6 50		
rs. Winn, washing, - - - - -	240	-	240 08		
en Breslin, - - - - -	241	-	37 75	-	18 00
Echols, - - - - -	242	-	255 25		
Vanderslice, - - - - -	243	-	486 30		
Humble, washing, - - - - -	244	-	11 25		
l. Ruff, - - - - -	245	-	12 00		
wis, hair cutting, - - - - -	246	-	24 12		
nt Sukey, washing, - - - - -	247	-	35 80		
arer, wood, - - - - -	248	-	5 00		
L. Deaver, - - - - -	249	-	124 43		
r. Fagan, - - - - -	250	-	40 00		
m, - - - - -	251	-	10 00		
. H. Cary & Co. - - - - -	252	-	388 39		
. Lackey, - - - - -	253	-	4 57		
V. Banker, - - - - -	254	90 00			
aj. Gilham, salary Nov. and Dec. - - - - -	255	233 33			
aj. Preston, “ “ - - - - -	256	200 00			
eut. Allen, salary, - - - - -	257	50 00			
rgeant Baldauf, - - - - -	258	200 00	68 89		
r. Middleton, - - - - -	259	43 13			
r. Hileman, - - - - -	260	-	-	-	232 63
Campbell, - - - - -	261	-	-	-	30 00
Gibson, - - - - -	262	-	-	-	130 50
r. Gibbs, servants' wages, - - - - -	263	-	-	-	500 00
February.					
aj. Jackson, salary, - - - - -	264	100 00			
apt. Stuart, - - - - -	265	41 66			
apt. Colston, - - - - -	266	66 66			
r. Jordan, postage, - - - - -	267	10 87			
aj. Gilham, salary January, - - - - -	268	116 66			
M. Wade, - - - - -	269	4 29	23 75	3 15	42 73
ol. Smith, salary January, - - - - -	270	166 66			
r. Hutcheson, printing, - - - - -	271	12 00			
aj. Preston, salary, - - - - -	272	200 00			
r. Gillock, - - - - -	273	-	-	-	119 94
aj. Alexander, - - - - -	274	-	-	-	52 00
icon & Baskervill, - - - - -	275	-	515 28	-	1146 91
ilson & Barclay, - - - - -	276	-	70 64	-	15 42
r. Risk, - - - - -	277	-	2 83	-	28 91
r. Figgatt, - - - - -	278	-	35 30	-	28 95
r. Gibbs, - - - - -	279	-	-	-	53 56
B. Davidson & Harris, - - - - -	280	-	1057 67		
r. Harris, - - - - -	281	-	5 38		

	Voucher.	V. M. I.	Q. M. Dep.	Building Acct.	Subsidiary Dep.
February.					
Switzer & Block,	282	-	40 37		
W. Stevens,	283	-	13 25		
N. Birmingham,	284	-	5 75		
Mr. Catlett, salary January,	285	-	41 66		
Kahn,	286	-	142 62		
Lincoln,	287	-	12 00		
Jordan & Jordan,	288	-	-	274 30	
Charlton,	289	-	-	127 11	
C. Boyle,	290	-	-	90 66	
Davis,	291	-	-	117 98	
Sundries, as per abstract,	292	-	169 55		
March.					
Sundries,	293	-	-	505 00	
Do.	293	-	512 13		
Do.	293	37 87			
A. V. Banker,	294	75 00			
Maj. Jackson, salary,	295	100 00			
Lieut. Allen,	296	50 00			
Col. Smith, salary February,	297	166 66			
Sergeant Baldauf,	298	60 00			
A. V. Banker,	299	31 00			
Capt. Stuart, salary,	300	83 33			
Mr. Catlett, "	300	-	83 33		
Maj. Preston, "	301	100 00			
Capt. Colston, " Feb. and March,	302	133 33			
A. Ellison, jr., building frames,	303	-	-	300 00	
Mr. Deacon,	304	-	-	52 38	
W. & E. Leyburn, iron work,	305	-	-	100 00	
Mr. Kahle, furniture,	306	-	50 00		
Cadet Stringfellow, error in his acc't,	307	-	23 75		
Davidson & Harris,	308	-	1019 15		
L. Stegerman,	309	-	19 62	-	62
Mr. Turner, charcoal,	310	-	61 25		
Mr. Kenny,	311	-	70 00		
Mr. Risk, freight,	312	-	-	-	24
Sundries, as per abstract,	313	-	177 38		
Cadet Harris, J. H.	313	-	-	-	3
R. L. Gillock,	314	-	-	-	250
April.					
Mr. Gibbs, current expenses,	315	-	-	-	200
E. Breslin,	316	-	8 87	-	9
Mr. Lowman,	317	-	-	-	200
Dr. Graham,	318	-	-	30 98	12
Mr. Cummings,	319	-	-	-	20
J. Lower,	320	-	-	-	59
Whitmore & Logan,	321	-	-	-	100
Lieut. Harris, salary,	322	100 00			
Lieut. Allen, "	323	50 00			
Mr. Plunkett, postage,	324	12 34			
Mrs. Winn, on washing contract,	325	-	100 00		
Mr. Sheltman,	326	-	30 00		
S. Vanderslice,	327	-	306 25		
Col. Ruff,	328	-	33 12		
Capt. Johnson,	329	-	25 00		
Maj. Williamson, house rent,	330	-	30 00		
W. R. Sheltman,	331	-	10 00		
J. M. Smith & Bro.	332	-	147 64		
D. Felt & Co.	333	-	37 07		
Mr. Leech,	334	-	20 00		
C. Birmingham,	335	-	-	40 00	
Breedlove,	336	-	-	49 23	
Sundries,	337	-	190 10		
Do.	337	-	-	-	109 8



	Voucher.	V. M. I.	Q. M. Dep.	Building Acct.	Subsist. Dep.
1853, April.					
undries, - - - - -	338	-	-	-	97 50
Do. as per abstract, - - - - -	339	-	81 37	-	
adet Sylvester, sal. as assistant, - - - - -	340	20 00			
faj. Gilham, salary, - - - - -	341	116 66			
r. Morris, - - - - -	342	-	-	-	30 00
. Hileman, - - - - -	343	-	-	-	191 15
. V. Banker, - - - - -	344	54 00			
ieut. Allen, salary, - - - - -	345	50 00			
ol. Smith, " March, - - - - -	346	166 66			
. Vanderslice, balance salary, - - - - -	347	-	125 00		
unt Sukey, washing, - - - - -	348	-	20 90		
rs. Winn, - - - - -	349	-	135 00		
r. Burgess, tolls, - - - - -	350	-	8 00		
ockbridge Bible society, - - - - -	351	-	18 35		
r. Kanear, - - - - -	352	-	62 18		
r. Bear, - - - - -	353	-	8 00		
r. Welch, - - - - -	354	-	-	10 00	
r. Corcran, - - - - -	355	-	-	30 00	
undries, as per abstract, - - - - -	356	-	-	-	39 25
Do. do. - - - - -	356	-	141 02		
ol. Smith, for traveling expenses north pur- chasing supplies, - - - - -	357	-	95 75		
ol. Smith, for C. Murdock, - - - - -	358	-	116 62		
tewart & Jones, (Col. Smith for,) - - - - -	359	-	-	32 03	
ol. Smith, for Nash & Woodhouse, - - - - -	360	15 15			
" for travel'g expenses to Richmond, - - - - -	361	114 71			
" for Melloy & Ford, - - - - -	362	-	-	-	3 75
faj. Preston, salary to July 1st, 3 months, - - - - -	363	300 00			
faj. Gilham, " " 4 " - - - - -	364	466 66			
faj. Williamson, " " 5 " - - - - -	365	500 00			
faj. Jackson, " " 5 " - - - - -	366	500 00			
apt. Stuart and Lieuts. Harris and Allen to July 1st, - - - - -	367	325 00			
Ir. Catlett, salary to July 1st, - - - - -	367	-	125 00		
ol. Smith, " " - - - - -	368	500 00			
apt. Colston, " " - - - - -	369	200 00			
ubsistence department, - - - - -	370	62 47	199 63	76 96	
uartermaster's department, - - - - -	371	87 42			
uilding account, - - - - -	371	-	184 75		
or. H. M. Estill, - - - - -	372	-	-	-	225 00
or. J. Moore, - - - - -	373	8 00			
Ir. Davis, - - - - -	374	-	-	62 74	
Ir. Stratton, - - - - -	375	-	-	61 32	
June.					
. Johnson, - - - - -	376	-	-	24 20	
. White, - - - - -	377	-	-	200 00	
. Evans & Co. - - - - -	378	-	275 00		
Ir. Gibbs, - - - - -	379	-	-	-	200 00
		\$ 16158 05	21479 75	28601 04	10179 62

C.R.

	Voucher.	V. M. I. proper.	V. M. I. Tuition.	Q. M. Departm't.	Building Appropri'n.	Subsist. Departm't.
1852, June.						
By balance from last annual report, -	-	-	-	423 67	1316 73	492
Lexington sav. inst. -	-	100 00	-	-	-	-
July.						
Lexington sav. inst. -	-	-	-	844 83	30094 19	403
Cadet Mayo, commission, -	-	3 01	-	-	-	-
Sundries, per abstract, -	106	-	-	3363 69	-	-
Do. -	380	-	-	-	-	6
Cadet Hammond, -	135	-	-	-	-	-
September.						
Sundries, commission, -	-	428 59	-	-	-	-
Sundry pay cadets, fees, -	381	-	4800 00	-	-	3517
Lex. sav. inst. -	-	1500 00	-	197 15	-	-
Sundries, per abstract, -	135	-	-	5174 57	-	-
November.						
Sundries, per abstract, -	183	-	-	2686 86	-	-
December.						
Sundries, per abstract, -	185	-	-	1167 53	-	-
Lex. sav. inst. -	-	3998 00	-	-	47 50	-
Sundries, commission, -	-	225 46	-	-	-	-
January.						
Sundry pay cadets, fees, -	225	-	200 00	-	-	3507
Sundries, -	225	-	-	-	-	7391
Do. -	225	-	-	-	-	-
Do. -	224	-	-	152 38	-	-
Do. -	332	-	-	-	-	47
February.						
Sundries, as per abstract, -	292	-	-	3153 95	-	-
March.						
Lex. sav. inst. -	-	2075 16	-	-	-	-
Sundries, commission, -	-	166 37	-	-	-	-
Do. as per abstract, -	313	-	-	1233 88	-	-
April.						
Sundries, -	337	-	-	259 09	-	-
May.						
Sundries, diplomas, -	383	125 00	-	-	-	-
Cadet Lee, do. -	383	5 00	-	-	-	-
Sundries, per abstract, -	339	-	-	324 38	-	-
Do. do. -	356	-	-	2814 52	-	-
Lex. sav. inst. -	-	32 50	-	-	-	-
Sundries, commission, -	-	71 17	-	-	-	-
Do. -	370	-	-	-	-	339
Do. -	371	-	-	597 25	-	-
Q. M. Dept. -	371	-	-	-	184 75	-
Lex. sav. inst. -	-	2100 75	-	-	-	-
		\$10831 01	5000 00	22393 75	31643 17	15705

## GENERAL RECAPITULATION.

## CR.

y amount received from

V. M. institute proper,	-	-	-	-	10,831 01
Tuition fees of pay cadets,	-	-	-	-	5,000 00
Q. M. department,	-	-	-	-	22,393 75
Building appropriation,	-	-	-	-	31,643 17
Subsistence department,	-	-	-	-	15,705 14

## DR.

o amount paid for

Virginia military institute,	-	-	16,158 05	
Quartermaster's department,	-	-	21,479 75	
Building barracks and professors' houses,	-	-	28,601 04	
Subsistence department,	-	-	10,179 62	
o balance,	-	-	9,154 61	
			<u>\$ 85,573 07</u>	<u>85,573 07</u>
y balance on hand June 15th, 1853,	-	-	-	<u>\$ 9,154 61</u>

## SPECIAL RECAPITULATION.

## V. M. INSTITUTE.

Dr. as per report,	-	-	-	16,158 05
Cr. by V. M. I. proper, and tuition fees, as per report,	-	-	-	15,831 01
To balance,	-	-	-	<u>\$ 327 04</u>

## Q. M. DEPARTMENT.

Cr. as per report,	-	-	-	22,393 75
Dr. do.	-	-	-	21,479 75
By balance,	-	-	-	<u>\$ 914 00</u>

## BUILDING ACCOUNT.

Cr. as per report,	-	-	-	31,643 17
Dr. do.	-	-	-	28,601 04
By balance,	-	-	-	<u>\$ 3,042 13</u>

## SUBSISTENCE DEPARTMENT.

Cr. as per report,	-	-	-	15,705 14
Dr. do.	-	-	-	10,179 62
By balance,	-	-	-	<u>\$ 5,525 52</u>

E. E.

R. E. COLSTON,  
Treas. V. M. I.

June 15th, 1853.

*Merit Roll of the Cadets of the Virginia Military Institute, as determined at the General Examination before the Board of Visitors, July 1853.*

\* Distinguished. † Deficient.

FIRST CLASS—GRADUATES.

General merit.	NAMES.	COUNTIES.	Total.	REMARKS.
*1	J. T. Murfee,	Southampton,	2257.99	1st captain.
*2	W. Silvester,	Norfolk City,	2188.59	Ass't prof. French.
3	P. S. Lewis,	Mason,	2014.59	
4	W. W. Williams,	Norfolk City,	1959.87	3d lieutenant.
5	J. J. Phillips,	Nansemond,	1954.29	1st "
6	Geo. H. Smith,	Fairfax,	1952.08	
7	T. G. Smith,	Norfolk City,	1799.00	
8	J. L. White,	Washington,	1791.18	Quartermaster.
9	J. P. Hammet,	Montgomery,	1734.88	2d lieutenant.
10	J. D. Bruce,	Frederick,	1681.99	
11	J. C. Ward,	Campbell,	1662.01	
12	Geo. Chamberlaine,	Norfolk City,	1658.91	
13	Gabriel Gray,	Culpeper,	1620.67	2d captain.
14	Wm. Kemble,	Monongalia,	1570.34	
15	J. R. Waddy,	Northampton,	1495.47	1st lieutenant.
16	J. W. Cringan,	Richmond City,	1475.08	2d "
17	W. F. Lee,	Alexandria,	1407.89	
18	J. A. Turner,	King George,	1365.57	Adjutant.
19	Francis Mallory,	Elizabeth City,	1363.58	3d lieutenant.
20	Alexander Morson,	Stafford,	1250.61	
21	H. B. Armistead,	Fauquier,	1215.51	
22	N. Hammond,	Berkeley,	1198.79	
23	J. M. Lightner,	Pocahontas,	1138.93	
24	W. E. Arnold,	Franklin,	1133.92	
25	T. J. Moncure,	Caroline,	1099.92	
†	D. S. Lowther,	Lewis,	-	Deficient in conduct.

## SECOND CLASS.

General merit.	NAMES.	COUNTIES.	Total.	REMARKS.
*1	R. C. Taylor,	- Norfolk City,	- 1072.9	Sergeant.
*2	J. H. Lane,	- Matthews,	- 994.4	Do.
3	T. Blackburn,	- Jefferson,	- 882.0	
4	R. P. Carson,	- Washington,	- 850.0	Sergeant.
5	C. Lightfoot,	- Culpeper,	- 799.3	1st orderly sergeant
6	J. L. Stephenson,	- Fauquier,	- 773.3	
7	J. W. Humes,	- Washington,	- 751.0	Sergeant.
8	W. B. Botts,	- Spotsylvania,	- 706.5	
9	C. E. Lauck,	- Frederick,	- 695.5	Sergeant.
10	W. E. Harrison,	- Loudoun,	- 690.0	
11	A. Bruce,	- Halifax,	- 538.8	Color sergeant.
12	G. B. Horner,	- Fauquier,	- 515.0	2d orderly sergeant
13	C. H. Riddick,	- Nansemond,	- 493.8	Sergeant.
14	A. Marks,	- Prince George,	- 442.4	
†	J. Miller,	- Brooke,	- Deft.	Sergeant.

## THIRD CLASS.

General Merit.	NAMES.	COUNTIES.	Total.	REMARKS.
*1	W. T. Patton,	- Richmond City, -	584.1	
*2	L. B. Williams,	- Orange, -	573.0	
3	T. W. Hardy,	- Norfolk City, -	556.0	
4	S. Crutchfield,	- Spotsylvania, -	552.8	
5	E. J. Bargamin,	- Richmond City, -	527.8	
6	Geo. Buck,	- Morgan, -	523.2	
7	B. H. Todd,	- Nottoway, -	513.1	Corporal.
8	Edw'd Magruder,	- Orange, -	504.1	Do.
9	E. C. Shepherd,	- Jefferson, -	499.2	Do.
10	James Waddell,	- Augusta, -	497.6	Do.
11	R. C. Allen,	- Bedford, -	480.0	Do.
12	H. W. Cox,	- Chesterfield, -	456.5	
13	J. Wilson,	- Cumberland, -	443.8	Corporal.
14	E. J. Harvie,	- Amelia, -	443.3	Do.
15	W. F. Dupuy,	- Dinwiddie, -	443.0	
16	J. W. Ashby,	- Clarke, -	416.2	
17	T. Barksdale,	- Halifax, -	395.2	
18	William Fife,	- Kanawha, -	296.4	
†	W. Lovell,	- Madison, -	-	Deficient in conduct.
†	Edw'd Wallazz,	- Prince George, -	-	Corporal, deficient in mathematics.
†	J. A. Galt,	- Fluvanna, -	-	Deficient in math.
†	J. S. Davenport,	- Northumberland, -	-	Deficient in conduct.
†	James Hubard,	- Buckingham, -	-	Corporal, deficient in math. and conduct.
†	E. B. Montague,	- Middlesex, -	-	Deficient in mathematics and conduct.

## FOURTH CLASS.

General merit.	NAMES.	COUNTIES.	Total.	REMARKS.
*1	F. J. Jeffress,	- Mecklenburg,	- 640.9	
*2	C. M. Barton,	- Frederick,	- 634.6	
3	R. J. Fletcher,	- Greensville,	- 630.4	
4	E. L. Smith,	- Norfolk,	- 590.3	
5	J. L. Cross,	- Warren,	- 584.1	
6	C. Rumbough,	- Campbell,	- 578.7	
7	E. Fowlkes,	- Montgomery,	- 570.8	
8	J. H. Carpenter,	- Alleghany,	- 568.8	
9	W. T. C. White,	- Washington,	- 553.6	
10	W. B. Clagett,	- Loudoun,	- 536.2	
11	D. B. Penn,	- Richmond City,	- 524.0	
12	J. L. Meem,	- Campbell,	- 520.1	
13	G. W. Meade,	- Clarke,	- 511.7	
14	W. L. Guy,	- Nottoway,	- 503.2	
15	J. J. McAllister,	- Isle of Wight,	- 500.2	
16	R. M. McKinney,	- Campbell,	- 489.6	
17	F. M. Suddoth,	- Fauquier,	- 462.9	
18	W. J. Seargeant,	- Louisa,	- 450.2	
19	J. G. Gittings,	- Harrison,	- 442.1	
20	J. F. Alexander,	- Spotsylvania,	- 437.6	
21	C. J. F. Buford,	- Pittsylvania,	- 430.7	
22	T. Holcomb,	- Mecklenburg,	- 399.2	
23	W. H. Hood,	- Southampton,	- 381.0	
24	Edw'd L. Fant,	- Fauquier,	- 379.8	
25	J. P. Mathews,	- Appomattox,	- 373.1	
26	W. N. Moorman,	- Campbell,	- 358.5	
27	J. H. Hannum,	- Washington,	- 353.3	
28	J. H. Cameron,	- Rockbridge,	- 357.6	
29	R. H. Hooe,	- Fauquier,	- 320.3	
30	W. Mason,	- Brunswick,	- 286.4	
31	N. Dawson,	- Loudoun,	- 265.1	
	C. S. Hurt,	- Dinwiddie,	-	To be re-examine
	P. B. Stanard,	- Richmond City,	-	geography.
	Geo. M. Edgar,	- Monroe,	-	Do.
	C. Harding,	- Northumberland,	-	Do.
	W. H. Easley,	- Halifax,	-	Do.
	Thos. B. Owen,	- Halifax,	-	Do.
†	T. C. Rice,	- Charlotte,	-	Deficient in math
†	W. S. Parran,	- Hardy,	-	Deficient in ma
				tics and cond
†	P. H. Worsham,	- Dinwiddie,	-	Deficient in math
†	W. B. Ritter,	- Richmond City,	-	Do.
†	O. H. Cox,	- Northumberland,	-	Do.
†	J. P. Gilliam,	- Dinwiddie,	-	Do.
†	R. C. Fitzhugh,	- Spotsylvania,	-	Do.
†	S. B. Gresham,	- Lancaster,	-	Do.
	Abram Fulkerson,	- Washington,	-	Turned back.
	N. S. Cousins,	- Dinwiddie,	-	Do.
†	Jas. E. Towson,	- Stafford,	-	Deficient in ma
				and French.
†	John E. Jordan,	- Isle of Wight,	-	Def. in math., Fre
				and conduct.



*Proceedings relative to Maltreatment of Cadets.*

At a meeting held by the cadets, who expect to remain here during the months of July and August next, on the 11th day of June 1853, for the purpose of drafting resolutions concerning the maltreatment of cadets:

On motion of E. L. Smith, G. P. C. Rumbough was called to the chair, and Wm. Y. C. White appointed secretary.

The object of the meeting having been briefly explained by W. J. Sergeant, and questions relating to the object of this meeting having been fully discussed, it was

Unanimously resolved, that the president should appoint a committee of five, whose duty should be to draft a series of resolutions condemning the unjust treatment of new cadets received at the Virginia military institute, which has hitherto, in a great degree, dimmed its luster.

The president thereupon appointed the following gentlemen: R. J. Fletcher, C. J. F. Ford, J. L. Cross, R. M. McKinney, L. W. T. Patton.

On motion of L. W. T. Patton, the president and secretary were added to the committee.

Whereupon, the committee presented the following preamble and resolutions, which were received and adopted by a vote of 40 to 3:

Whereas we, the cadets of the Virginia military institute, who matriculated in the year 1852, seeing the ill effects produced by the maltreatment of new cadets, and feeling the disgrace which has been pronounced upon such a course of conduct by those who feel deep interest not only in the welfare and prosperity of the institute, but also to maintain our characters as Virginians, and gentlemen of high toned and polished deportment: Therefore,

Be it resolved, that we believe the maltreatment of new cadets, by dragging, twisting, or otherwise inflicting bodily injury, as has heretofore existed at the Virginia military institute, to be in the highest degree detrimental both to the interest and honor of the institution.

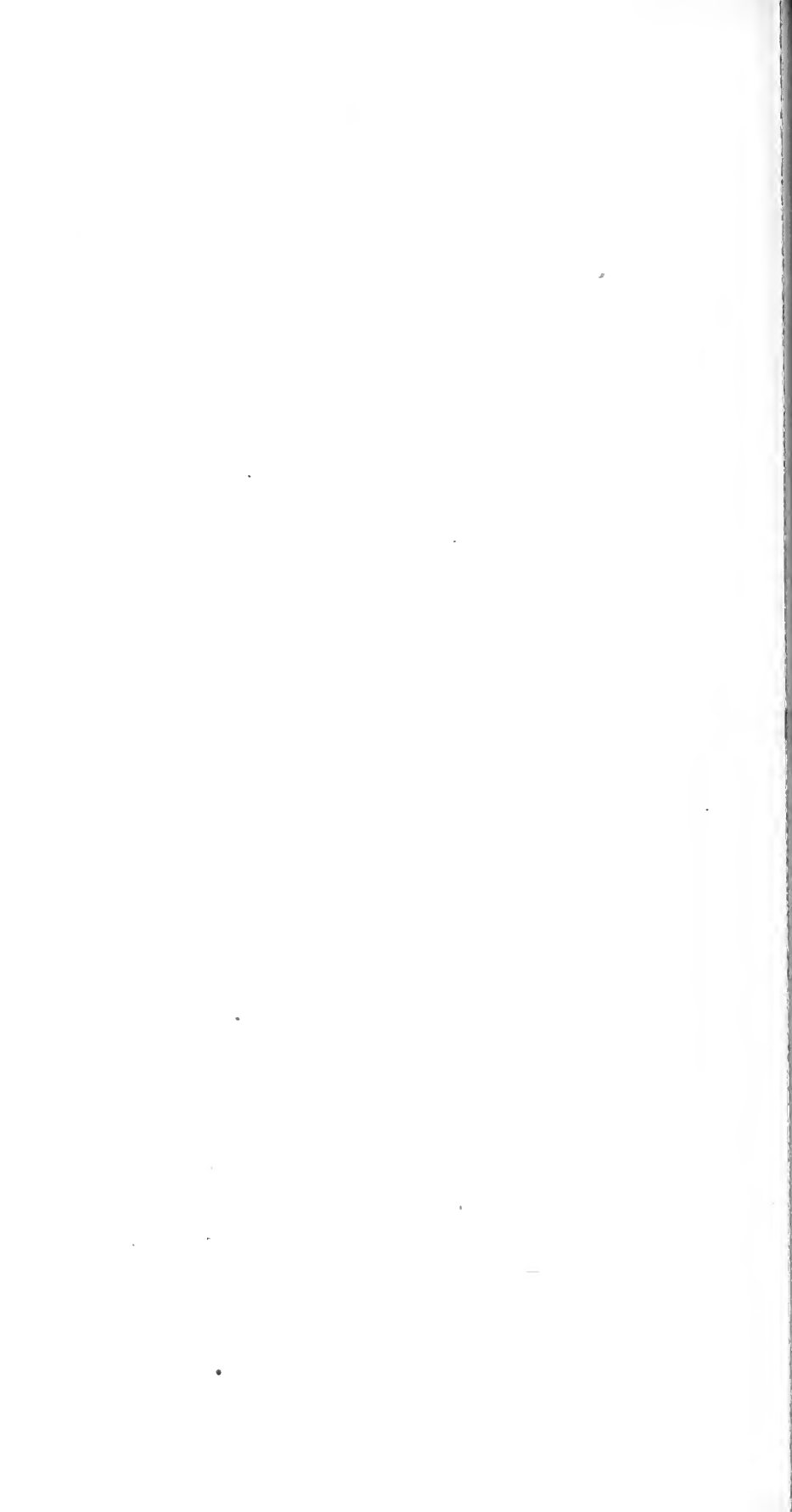
Resolved, that inasmuch as many and grievous complaints have been manifested by the legislature of Virginia and the people generally, against the superintendent, on account of his maltreatment, we desire to exculpate him entirely from any charges of which he has been accused, and believe that it is entirely out of his power to prevent it, unless he be aided by the cadets themselves; and we take pleasure in testifying to the friends and patrons of the institute our determination to abstain not only from the abuse of new cadets ourselves, but use our most strenuous exertions to prevent others from so doing.

Resolved, that the proceedings of this meeting and a copy of these resolutions be presented to the superintendent, as an assurance that the honor and integrity of the institution shall be preserved, as far as in us lies, from such reproaches in future.

Whereupon, the meeting adjourned.

G. P. C. RUMBOUGH, *President.*

Wm. Y. C. WHITE, *Secretary,*



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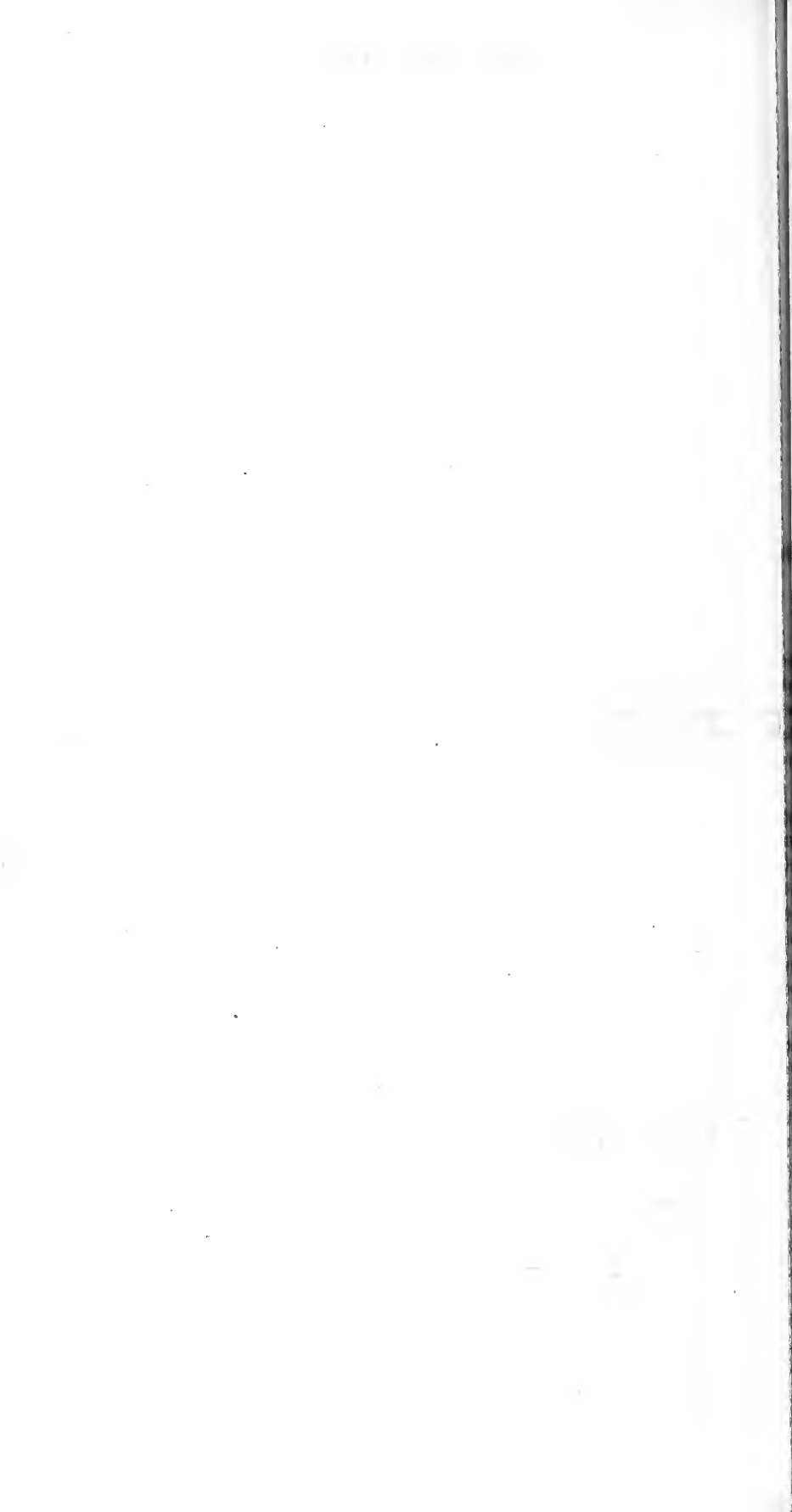
LETTER

OF

PROF. MAHAN,

RELATIVE TO THE

VA. MILITARY INSTITUTE.



## LETTER.

ROCKBRIDGE ALUM SPRINGS,  
JULY 8th, 1853.

His Excellency JOSEPH JOHNSON.

SIR,

Having been present at the examination of the cadets of the Virginia military institute, just terminated, by invitation of the board of visitors, it has occurred to me, that though not officially called upon to do so, I might, without impropriety, lay before your excellency the impressions made upon me by my visit to this school, as a subject of some interest to you, coming from an officer of our national military academy, who has been connected with it, either as pupil or instructor, for the last thirty years.

So long familiar with the workings of a system of training like that pursued at the Virginia military institute, I may claim to have entered upon the scrutiny before me understandingly. To say that I was in the highest degree gratified with everything I observed at the institute, as to its state of discipline and the results of the scientific and literary instruction exhibited by the thorough examination of the classes, is to pay but a well deserved testimonium to the labors of its superintendent and corps of instructors. An off-shoot, to some extent, of our national military school, the resemblance of the offspring to the parent is at times so striking, that I felt as if presiding at an examination of the pupils of the latter.

As the details of this examination will come before your excellency from another and more responsible source, it will not be expected of me to enter upon them here. My desire is chiefly to unite my testimony to that of the highly distinguished gentlemen who constitute the board of visitors, as to the fidelity and efficiency with which those have discharged their duties to whom the state has intrusted this important institution, and to add my own views of its value to Virginia; on which last point, I must crave your excellency's indulgence to say a few words.

I need hardly call attention to the fact—notorious to every man of mature age in the state—of the low condition of scientific knowledge and common school education throughout Virginia, to within but a very few years back. Scarcely was there an academy of standing where scientific instruction, in any measure worthy of the name, could be obtained; and our higher seminaries of learning were, for the most part, in a not much better condition. School teachers had to be procured from abroad, because the young men of the state, who were fitted by a collegiate education to perform the important functions of this vocation, either felt that it would be a kind of degradation to stoop to it, or else found that the other professional avocations opened up more alluring prospects for wealth and ambition. The profession of civil engineering had not an existence; and of the few who had assumed

it, rarely could one be found who had the slightest tincture of science upon which to base his pretensions. Military knowledge, that essential element of a nation's safety, which, like our own, depends upon her citizen soldiery in a moment of danger, was at the low ebb. To so great a degree was this the case, that it may be safely averred, at the commencement of the war of 1812, twenty-five native born citizens could not have been brought together, throughout the entire length and breadth of our country, who were capable of discharging the simplest duties of military engineers in the field. An important step was taken towards remedying this untoward state of affairs, in the organization and gradual progress of the national military academy; and here for a while effort seemed to have resulted. Having a special object in view, the wise founders of that institution did not contemplate what it has fortuitously, as it would seem, accomplished through its graduates, who, having been educated for a military career, subsequently threw themselves into the walks of civil life, and fortunately directed their attention to the pressing wants of the moment, for which their training had more peculiarly adapted them, those of teachers of science and civil engineers. But even after this result had become to some degree salient before the public eye, still its full consequences were either not appreciated, or men seemed to look upon such institutions as the national military school rather as the concern of the nation than of the individual states; and it was left to Virginia, urged to it by the almost unaided efforts of one of her sons, to take the lead in what to many appeared hardly a doubtful experiment. What was thus undertaken with misgiving has, as if by magic, been almost completely accomplished. The work thus commenced is no longer "in the full tide of successful experiment;" it is *un fait accompli*, a fixed fact. The foundation of a noble structure has been broadly and solidly laid, and all of the essential superstructure raised. There remains but to finish those details which demand time alone to render the edifice in all points worthy of the success which called it into being. The moment of completion must rapidly follow; for in this in all that pertains to the honor, the dignity and the strength of the commonwealth, the strongly appreciative good sense of the people will go before those whom they have elevated into the positions of their legislators and rulers. They not only reason out, but they actually feel that they have, in this matter, done a work, in their day, for which their posterity will be deeply grateful. The thing is tangible to them. It is brought home, through the graduates of the institute, to every district, every county, every town, every village, every fireside. The happy thought of mingling the state cadet with the pay cadet—placing honorable, meritorious poverty side by side with wealth and rank in the race of honor, with the prize before them inscribed *detur digniori*, and the certainty that it will be awarded as inscribed, cannot fail to make of the institute the fondling of the people; and justly, so long as strict impartiality, regardless alike of the influence of station, of wealth and of party, shall preside over its councils. To you, sir, and to your successors in the responsible office you now fill, is the fate of this fondling mainly committed. Let me, then, adjure you, in the name of science! in the name of all that elevates and ennobles our species, that you look well to it—that no one receive from you a controlling voice in the destinies of this noble institution, who is not, in all respects, equal to the task. Let none be called upon to direct its course but men whose purity, firmness and integrity of character can be vouched for by every citizen of all parties—men whose past lives can be pointed to as a model for imitation to the youth who shall appear before them—men who all feel are incapable of doing even a questionable act, and who will do nothing and know nothing in relation to their trust but what conscience tells them is for the public weal. Let this be done, and there will be no act of your administration for which your fellow-citizens will have more cause for grateful remembrance; none upon which you yourself, in the retirement of private life, will reflect with feelings of more satisfaction.

But I must crave your excellency's indulgence for having allowed myself to be carried off from the object I mainly had in view, that of stating my impressions of the institute and calling attention to what it has already accomplished. Dating back only fourteen years, the most of which have been years of struggle for a bare existence, the institute has in

received within its walls 597 pupils, 159 of whom were state cadets. It has sent forth in them 226 graduates, and 371 others who have but partially partaken of its benefits. Its graduates 86 have become teachers, and 22 are employed as civil engineers—the remainder being in almost all the other various walks of civil life. Comment on these facts is unnecessary. How a little leaven soon leavens a great lump, every housewife can—a truth which is now being felt by all in reference to the institute. I have witnessed classes at the last examination discuss the most abstruse problems of science in a manner that would have done credit to any institution. To particularize might seem invidious, I may be permitted to single out the graduating class, as their course at the institute is ended, numbering 25 members, as having exhibited throughout all their branches the un-  
 takable evidences of industry and great promise. Here, then, we see a band of 226 youths in all, sent forth from their alma mater, any one of whom, should the country be involved in war on the morrow, would be able to perform with accuracy the duties of sub-  
 terns of engineers in the field, a fact in striking contrast with the destitute state of the nation in this branch of the military art in 1812—to say nothing of the qualifications of these young men as officers for the volunteers and other forces of the state, and their ability as teachers and civil engineers.

Should the question be asked, what benefit does the state derive from those who do not graduate? it may be answered, that they also will find their place, should their services be needed for in the field, or in the less conspicuous sphere of the school-house. Of this class, separated from the institute for various causes, some remain there only six months, some a year, others two, three and even four years. Now, it must be recollected that each, during his stay at the institute, receives his quota of its instruction, and is under daily military training; and it may be safely averred that any one, who remains only six months under such a regimen, will carry away with him more correct notions of military discipline, and will be better fitted for drilling men than nine-tenths of the officers under our present militia system.

But the great feature of the institute, so far as forming good citizens as well as good soldiers is concerned, is its system of discipline. This subject has already undergone a searching investigation before a committee of the legislature at its last session, and it is to be hoped is finally settled. It is one that cannot too forcibly be insisted upon, as it is in truth the foundation stone of the moral fabric of the institute. Without a rigid enforcement of attention to minutiae, there cannot be good order, nor, in fact, any order maintained. Who has not felt this in domestic life? What prudent parent would be willing to jeopard a child's future welfare, by placing him in a position where he would not be subjected to every restraint that can beget in him habits of punctuality, of strict attention to duty and of self-control? To such ends does the discipline of the institute look; and these it endeavors to attain by a system of demerit marks, which, when a certain limit is transcended, *ipso facto* separates the pupil from the school. Cases of a painful and even delicate nature arise under this rule, appealing strongly to the sympathies of the board of visitors. It may seem hard to dismiss a youth for an infraction of rules involving no moral depravity, and thus, to some extent, blight his prospects in life. The object of the institute is not to punish the depraved, but to form citizens who shall be useful to the state; men whose early lives give a guarantee that they may be confided in when placed in stations of trust. Were the requirements of discipline at the institute anything more than every youth can readily conform to, it would be hard to dismiss him for not conforming to them in a reasonable extent. But so far from this being the case, it not infrequently happens that young men pass their entire term there without incurring a single demerit mark. But the question, truly presented, is, shall the public interests be made to yield to the private advantage of the individual? Either a youth will not, or, from some mental or moral defect, he cannot be brought to conform to rules which a long experience has shown to be indispensable in the government of an institution like this. Upon what plea of justice or well considered expediency should either of these classes be suffered to form an exception?

The question admits of but one answer; and fortunate has it been for the welfare of the institute that the boards of visitors have set their faces sternly against any violation of the safeguard. They have felt that admission to the institute is a great boon from the state to the pupil—one that is yearly becoming more valuable, and will be eagerly sought after by hundreds of youths. They feel that the diploma conferred on its graduate is no mere empty form, but a passport to the confidence of his fellow-citizens. With these benefits secured to him by his admission and graduation, the board feel that no exertions on the part of the recipient are too great to repay them.

In closing this communication, I feel, sir, that I should be doing injustice to Col. Smith, the superintendent of the institute, did I not bear emphatic testimony to the zeal, fidelity and eminent ability he has displayed in building up this school, over which he has presided from its commencement. His native state has most happily found in him a rare combination of administrative and executive talent, that must have conducted him to eminence and fortune in any career. To these nature has conjoined, what is most rare, perfect *tact* in the government of youth. He has shown himself, in truth, a speciality that might in vain have been sought for among thousands. His special mission has been wisely and successfully performed—let the commonwealth see to it, that he be as nobly rewarded.

With sentiments of the highest consideration and respect,

I have the honor to be your excellency's very ob't serv't,

D. H. MAHAN, *Professor*

*Of Eng'ing, &c. in the U. S. Military Academy.*



